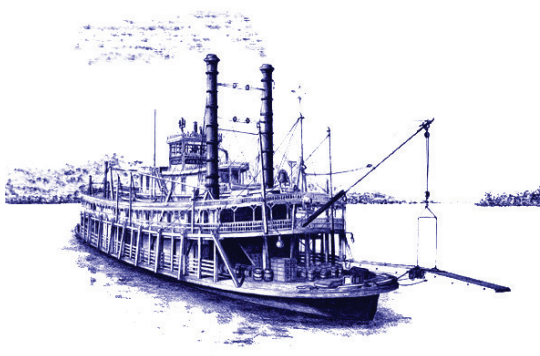


THE MADISON COURIER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025 *Serving the Courier area since 1837* NEWSSTAND • \$1.75



GROOMS OUT AS
MISS MADISON
PRESIDENT AS
MADISON MAYOR
COURTNEY CLEANS
HOUSE **PAGE B1**

Riverton LLC to contribute \$200K for Welch Park

BY BOB DEMAREE
An economic development agreement with Riverton LLC, developers of the Eagle Cotton Mill Fairfield Inn and Suites in downtown Madison, will provide \$200,000 toward construction and improvements associated with the new Damon Welch Park, located on Vaughn Drive just east of the hotel.

“This agreement contributes not only to the redevelopment

of Welch Park, which is greatly needed, but also the economic development benefits of partnering with Riverton to expand opportunities at the Fairfield Cotton Mill Hotel,” said Mayor Bob Courtney. “I am very grateful to Ron Bateman and his partners for the continued investment in Madison’s riverfront.”

Tony Steinhardt III, the city’s economic development director, said, “We are so fortunate that

the investors (in the hotel) have seen the value of giving back, and seeing the advantages of having a great park next to the hotel for their guests as well.” Courtney said the terms set forth in the EDA note that, in exchange for the funding, that 12 times per year the Fairfield Inn and Suites can reserve parking at Welch Park. Bateman, representing Riverton LLC, talked about the pro-

cess of bringing back the former Eagle Cotton Mill building that had dilapidated after years of neglect, and transforming it into the Fairfield Inn and Suites. “It seems sort of like a miracle what happened,” he said. “There were so many people involved — city, state, federal,” all coming together “one day at a time trying to keep it alive for 2-1/2 years.” He told the Redevelopment Commission that it was “a

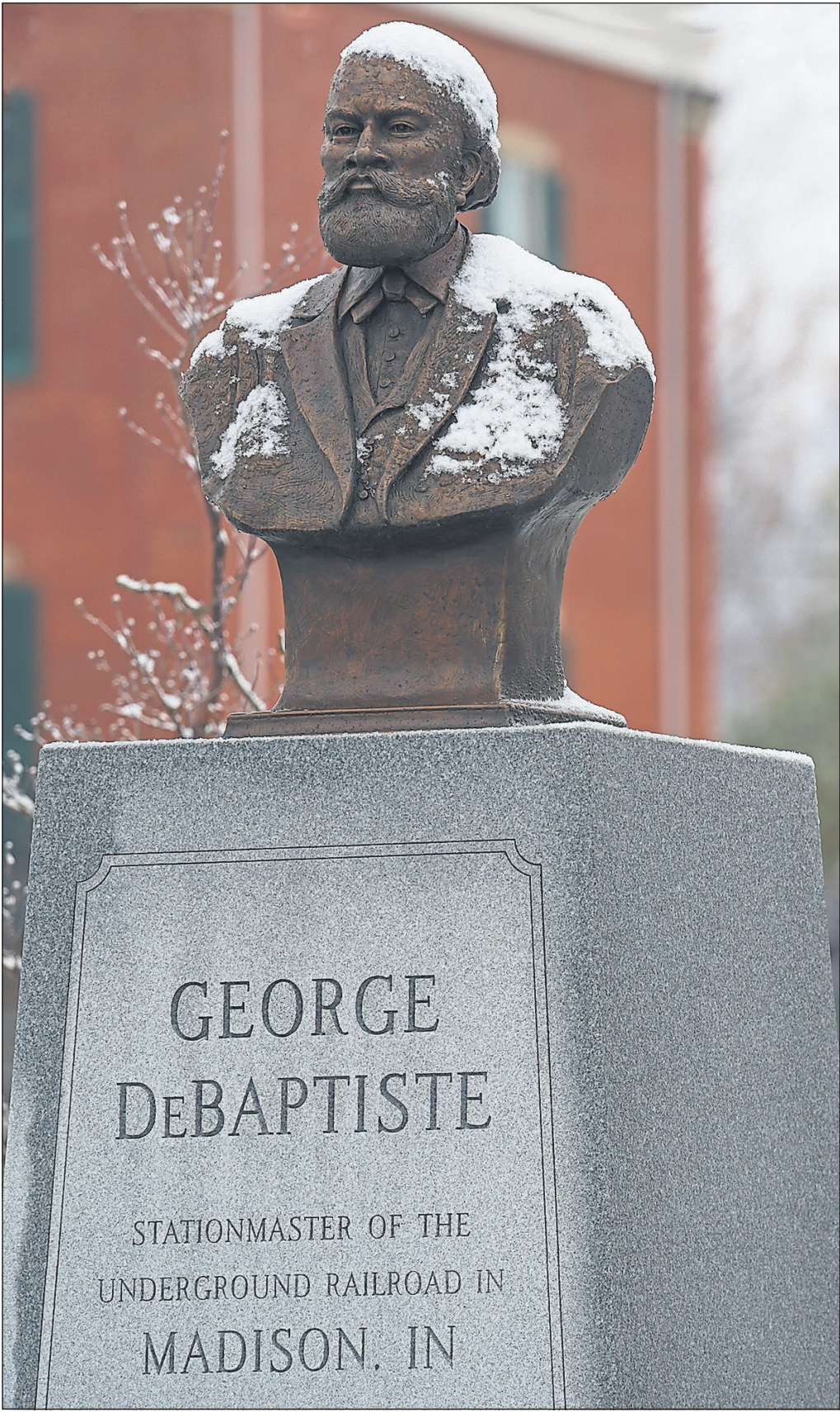
part of that process, and in the same sense I would say the work you guys do is really important to the future of Madison.” Bateman said he and wife, Marlene, “came back from Alaska to retire, fell in love with life here and we’re not going anywhere.” He’s hopeful Riverton can do more in the future for the community through the Fairfield

SEE **LLC/PAGE A8**

POWDERED WIG

A light dusting of snowfall on Tuesday night left the bronze bust of Underground Railroad Stationmaster George DeBaptiste wearing a “powdered wig” at Ohio River Legacy Park in Madison, Indiana. Although there was little accumulation in downtown Madison some roadways in the region were icy enough that several schools called off classes as a safety precaution.

Mark Campbell



Council approves RFID tracking at jail

BY BOB DEMAREE
Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is coming to the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office and Criminal Justice Center after the tracking system was approved by the County Council at its meeting Tuesday. “It’s a tool that we have recently come across that we think will increase the effectiveness of how we move around the facility as well another form of checks and balances,” said County Sheriff Ben Flint. RFID technology uses radio waves to identify people or objects. There is a device that reads information contained in a wireless device or “tag” from a dis-

tance without making any physical contact or requiring a line of sight. Flint explained the system allows a small card to be mounted to a wall and/or a wristband. “Each inmate will have a wristband that will have a specific RFID code” that tracks that inmate’s activity. “It cuts down on liability related issues” in being able to know exactly the inmate’s location and activity in the jail facility. He said there are also prompts that will take photos or videos if an inmate is combative, and store records of that activity on the cloud. The system will

SEE **RFID/PAGE A2**

Presidents Day closings announced

BY COURIER STAFF REPORT
All government offices in the city of Madison, town of Hanover and Jefferson County will be closed Monday in observance of the Presidents’ Day holiday. The Madison closing includes the water office, transfer station and the Brown Gym. Also, trash and recycle pickup in Madison will be delayed one day the week of Feb. 17-21. Both the Hanover and Madison branches of the Jefferson County Public Library will be closed Monday in observance of Presidents’ Day. U.S. Postal Service facilities will be closed for retail transactions on Monday, Feb. 17, and there will be no residential or business deliveries. Normal delivery and collection schedules will resume Tuesday, Feb. 18. To celebrate Presidents’ Day on Monday, Feb. 17, the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites will offer free admission on that day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., including the Lanier Mansion State Historic Site in Madison, along with the Corydon Capitol in Corydon and Culbertson Mansion in New Albany.

CHARLIE’S BEAT

Vetthus bringing the music back to Eleutherian



CHARLIE ROHLFING
CHARLIE’S BEAT

The national historic landmark Eleutherian College building, located on the old “Paris Pike Road” about 10 miles northeast of Madison, was specially built for acoustic music performance. “It was the 1850s, and there was no such thing as electric amplification or anything like that,”

explains Jan Vetthus, board president of the non-profit that owns and maintains the college. “They featured music education in all phases of their curriculum, plus oration and elocution. Students were taught how to project their voices and how to speak and sing clearly. “The main hall of the college

was built to naturally amplify and enhance speeches and musical performances,” continues Jan. “It’s quite common for new visitors, when stepping into the large auditorium for the first time, to spontaneously break into song! The acoustics and natural

SEE **BEAT/PAGE A8**



Eleutherian College board president Jan Vetthus says the national historic landmark was specially built for acoustic music and oration and invites groups to look into scheduling performances at the site. “We’re open to concerts, recitals, choral groups that want to experience the acoustic excellence, or even plays or speeches,” she said.

Charlie Rohlfing



33

High

15

Low

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Bradley Barron

Patricia Boone

Lillian Burkhardt

Sarah Craig

David Hale

Larry Hickman

Sandra Judkins

Sandra May

Billy Nevils Sr.

Jeffrey Padgett

David Perry

Daniel Poe

Maria Ramirez

David Thomas

Ernest Waggoner



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Former Jefferson County Sheriff Thomas dies at 67

BY BOB DEMAREE
Former Jefferson County Sheriff Dave Thomas died Monday, slightly more than two years after leaving office at the end of 2022.
“It’s definitely a loss for the county,” said Sheriff Ben Flint. “He was a well respected member of the community, and law enforcement community. He will be greatly missed by everybody.”
Thomas was Jefferson County Sheriff from Jan. 1, 2019 through Dec. 31, 2022, serving one term in the office after eight years as Chief Deputy under John Wallace’s two terms from Jan. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2018.
Wallace said Thomas “was our rock” as Chief Deputy. “He was the guy you could always turn to for sound advice, and he was a calming force. I’m just heart-



Dave Thomas

broken. He left us way too soon.”
Thomas, 67, had a long career in law enforcement, serving 20 years with the Indiana State Police. After retiring from ISP, he worked 11 years as director of Safety and Security at Hanover College. He then returned to active duty in law enforcement when Wallace asked him to be Chief Deputy for the Sheriff’s Department.
Wallace said he didn’t know Thomas until he ran for Sheriff in 2010. “I got to know him from mutual friends who told me he was a very impressive man with a great background,” and it turned out that Thomas was perfect in the role. “We balanced each other well. I’m kind of on the high strung side, and Dave was the type to slow down and think about it.”
Flint said he worked in

the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department during Wallace’s term in office, and that Thomas was “a great mentor, not just to me but all the officers in the community. He’ll be greatly missed for sure.”
Madison Mayor Bob Courtney said he and his wife, Tammy, “are saddened by the passing of Sheriff Thomas. He served the state and his community and sacrificed a lot to protect and serve Madison and Jefferson County, and we will miss him.”
He offered condolences to Thomas’ wife, Vickie, and family.
Fraternal Order of Police, Stacks of Power Lodge No. 128, will conduct a memorial service to honor Thomas’ lifelong career in law enforcement at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at Morgan and Nay Funeral Centre in Madison. Visitation will be held prior to the service beginning at 5 p.m.

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

LODGINGS
February 10, 2025
Jessica Lea Gray, 48, Hanover, for Manufacture/Dealing Methamphetamine, a Level 3 felony; Possession of Methamphetamine and Trafficking with an Inmate, both Level 5 felonies; Possession of Cocaine or Narcotic Drug and Maintaining a Common Nuisance, both Level 6 felonies; Possession of Marijuana-Prior Conviction, Possession of a Schedule Drug and Possession of Paraphernalia, all Class A misdemeanors. No bond.
Ashli D. Kynion, 36, Milton, Kentucky, for Possession of Cocaine or Narcotic Drug, a Level 6 felony; Resisting Law Enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor; and on a warrant for probation violation, Bond \$5,000 cash.
Ryan Douglas Ward, 41, Milton, Kentucky, for Resisting Law Enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor; and on a warrant for probation violation. Bond \$5,000 cash.

February 11, 2025
Demerries Demound Willie Dunson, 43, Kokomo, Indiana, on a felony bench warrant for non-support of a dependent. No bond.
Olivia Dee Gayle, 25, Commiskey, Indiana, for Operating Without Ever Obtaining a License-Prior Unrelated Conviction and Driving While Suspended-Prior Suspension Within 10 Years, both Class a misdemeanors. Bond pending.

February 12, 2025
Brandon M. Stephens, 47, Madison, court ordered incarceration for Leaving the Scene of an Accident-Property Damage. No bond.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT

SENTENCINGS
February 7, 2025
Beverly Gail Wheeler, 72, Madison, for Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail, all suspended but 5 actual days, with credit for 1 day served, 4 days to be executed and 360 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$489.50 in fees and court costs and driver’s license suspended 60 days.

February 10, 2025
Crystal L. Haas, 36, Madison, for Theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail with credit for 12 days served and 353 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$389 in fees and court costs.
Brandy Marie Carroll, 27, New Albany, Indiana, for Unlawful Possession of Syringe, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 180 days at Indiana Department of Correction, all suspended to supervised probation consecutive to 180 days probation for prior felony possession of syringe conviction plus \$389 in fees and court costs.
Skyler James Bell, 28, Hanover, for Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail, with credit for 4 days jail served with 361 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$489.50 in fees and court costs and

driver’s license suspended for 30 days.
Gustavo Roblero, 25, Madison, for Operating a Vehicle without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days jail, all suspended to 180 days supervised probation plus \$289.50 on fees and court costs and restitution in an amount to be determined.

February 11, 2025
Thomas Weston Livesay, 41, Madison, for Theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail, with 20 days executed and 45 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$289 in fees and court costs and restitution in an amount to be determined.
Anna Marie Fitzgerald, 32, Madison, for Domestic Battery, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail, with credit for 6 days served and 351 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$439 in fees and court costs.
Roger Leroy Young, 65, Madison, for Possession of Cocaine and Possession of Methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies. Sentenced 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction on each county, concurrent, with credit for 56 days jail served and 489 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$989 in fees and court costs.

February 12, 2025
Leroy Edward Newman, 60, Madison, for Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days to jail with 10 days executed and 355 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$439.50 in fees and court costs and driver’s license suspended for 180 days.
Zakry Allen Holder, 29, North Vernon, Indiana, for Battery and Leaving the Scene of an accident, both Class B misdemeanors. Sentenced to 180 days jail; 180 days jail on each count, consecutive, all suspended to supervised probation plus \$389 in fees and court costs and restitution to Nolan Gilbert in an amount to be determined. No Contact Order to continue as term of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, defendant may petition court for early expungement.
Leroy Edward Newman, 60, Madison, for Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days to jail with credit for 2 days jail served, 8 days to be executed and 355 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$439.50 in fees and court costs and driver’s license suspended for 180 days.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

JEFFERSON COUNTY
February 7, 2025
Angela Embs to Luke F. Rexroat, approximately 4.7 acres at 8794 West Polk Road, Lexington.
Gary Lee Kinman and Joy A. Kinman to Joy Ann Coles Kinman (trustee) and Gary Lee Kinman and Joy Ann Coles Kinman, 2.13 acres at 5893 West Foster Road, Hanover.
Joy Ann Coles Kinman (trustee) and Gary Lee Kinman and Joy Ann Coles Kinman to Gary Lee Kinman and Joy A. Kinman, 3.73 acres at 5931 West Foster Road, Hanover.
Shirley A. Smalley (trustee) and David C. Smalley and Shirley A. Smalley Joint Revocable Trust to Victoria Howard, 510 West Main

Street, Madison.
Susie P. Hensley and Susie P. Watts to Susie P. Hensley and Keith Hensley, 1751 Magnolia Avenue, Madison.
Ben Flint Sheriff of Jefferson County and Sheriff of Jefferson County Ben Flint to CMG Mortgage Inc., 845 North Borcherding Road, Madison (\$166,532.49).
Business & Industrial Federal Credit Union to Walter Harden and Brandolyn Harden, 2118 Lanier Drive, Madison.
Walter Harden and Brandolyn Harden to Business & Industrial Federal Credit Union, 2150 Lanier Drive, Madison.

February 10, 2025
Jerry Spencer to Jerry L. Spencer Irrevocable Trust and Deborah E. Hudson (trustee), approximately 33 acres at 11571 North Hicks Road, Madison.
Jerry Spencer to Jerry L. Spencer Irrevocable Trust and Deborah E. Hudson (trustee), approximately 85 acres at 1000+ North Hicks Road, Madison.


February 11, 2025
Mary Jo Stewart to Phillips Development Inc., 2850 South College Hill Drive, Hanover.
Keith Roseman and Kimberly Roseman to Norman L. Brameier (estate) and Estate of Norman L. Brameier, approximately 20 acres total at 1857 South River Bottom Road and 300+ Lowry Lane, Hanover.
Bonnie Cox to Rachel A. Alderman, 3.7 acres at 1156 Debby Lane, Madison.

February 12, 2025
Rhonda Bruther (deceased), Andrew E. Ralfa and Ashley N. Ralfa to Andrew E. Ralfa and Ashley N. Ralfa, 2479 Woods Edge Drive, Madison.
Larry Wayne Peak to Dawn R. Peak, 131 West Main Street, Hanover and 150 North Sycamore Street, Hanover.
Dawn R. Peak and Larry Wayne Peak to Marcus Burgess and Amanda Burgess, 150 North East Street, Madison.
John Michael Modisett and William Marc Modisett (estate) to Kim Marie Roberts (half interest), approximately 142 acres at 7000+ West State Road 56, Hanover; and 35 acres at 7000+ West Polk Road, Lexington.
Kim Marie Roberts to Catherine Ann Berkey, (half interest), approximately 142 acres at 7000+ West State Road 56, Hanover; and 35 acres at 7000+ West Polk Road, Lexington.
Bryon W. Sego and Kathlynn S. Sego to Todd J. Bruther (trustee), Todd J. Bruther Revocable Trust and KTC Holdings LLC, 1109 Michigan Road, Madison.
Michael R. Durocher and Estate of Raymond L. Durocher (deceased) to Layne A. Dohn and Jada Marie McHaley, 6931 West 400 North, Madison.
Meisberger Family Revocable Trust to M. Maxine Meisberger Living Trust, 85 Rose Allen Way, Madison.
M. Maxine Meisberger Living Trust and Maxine M. Meisberger (trustee) to M. Blake Able and Kayleigh Ann Mattson, 85 Rose Allen Way, Madison.
Kathryn S. Shelburne and Kathryn S. Shelburne (trustee) to Ruth L. Bowman, 8476 South 850, Nabb.
Brenda K. Lawson to HCJ Enterprises Inc, 2426 North Branch Street, Madison.

RFID
FROM PAGE A1
also scan officers to ensure rounds are being done on time, even allowing Flint to check the status of the staff and inmates from home. “It does everything. You can run reports and do audits at any point.”
Being at the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office and Criminal Justice Center, where inmates were moved from January of last year, opens up the opportunity for being able to utilize the program, a task that would have been more difficult in the former Jefferson County Jail in downtown Madison.

“We now have a state of the art facility. We should have nice equipment, too,” said Flint.
The cost of the equipment and first year fees is \$17,500 through Guardian RFID, which requires a three-year commitment at a \$10,000 annual cost.
Flint is hopeful the program can be in place by this summer. He said three days of training will be provided to staff.
“This gives us an incredible amount of tracking ability and will be very good for the jail,” said Council President Chris Shelton, who thanked Flint for researching the system and wanting to utilize it in the jail. “I think it’s huge to have that level of accountability.”
In other action, the Council approved \$25,433 in donations to the Jefferson

County Animal Shelter earmarked for a fund for medical, spay and neuter and general supplies.
Commissioner David Bramer said work is underway to develop a request for qualifications for an operator of the proposed Krueger Lake Campground at Jefferson Proving Ground in which county has been awarded \$3 million in READI funds by Our South-ern Indiana Regional Development Authority.
Funding for this and all other READI 2.0 projects won’t be available until 65% of READI 1.0 funds are spent, which is anticipated to occur by May or June.
A moment of silence at the beginning of the meeting was held in memory of former County Sheriff Dave Thomas, who died Monday at age 67.



THE MADISON COURIER

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9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
2:30 p.m. Friday for Tuesday issue
Noon Monday for Thursday issue
Noon Thursday for Saturday issue

VOL. 225 • ISSUE NO. 13

WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:31 a.m.
Sunset: 6:19 p.m.
Temperature: High 33, Low 15, Mean 24.0, Deficit 13.3
Precipitation since last published: .56
Precipitation, February 2025: 1.50
Precipitation, 2025: 4.24
Barometer: 30.03, Rising
River Level at Clifty Creek: 435.41, Falling
Forecast: Saturday: Rain High 47/Low 35; Sunday: Snow High 38/Low 16; Monday: Partly cloudy High 26/Low 17; Tuesday: Cloudy High 25/Low 13.

LOTTERY

INDIANA
Hoosier Lotto: 2-7-15-41-42-46 (2/12). Next Estimated Jackpot: \$40.5 million. Next Drawing (2/15).
Cash Five: 4-20-22-25-39 (2/12)
Cash 4 Life: 20-24-34-49-58 CB: 1 (2/12)

KENTUCKY
Cash Ball: 5-10-13-24 CB 18 (2/9)
Lucky For Life: 8-29-34-36-42 LB: 11 (2/9)

MEGAMILLIONS
7-30-39-41-70 MB: 13, MP 3 (2/11). Next Jackpot: \$129 million. Next Drawing (2/14)

POWERBALL
21-32-36-45-49 PB: 18, PP 2 (2/12). Next Estimated Jackpot: \$142 million. Next Drawing (2/15)

POWERBALL
11-24-26-31-39 PB: 15 (2/12). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to \$10 million. Next Drawing (2/15)

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BIRTHDAYS

Editor’s Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have followup questions.

FEBRUARY 15 Ray Black Jr. Benny Hassfurder	Karen Wright
FEBRUARY 19 Linda Trapp — 60	FEBRUARY 21 Paul Stone
FEBRUARY 20 Tanya Burnette	FEBRUARY 22 Bernie Corbin
	FEBRUARY 23 Andrew Forrester Kristen Mundt Carla Goins
	FEBRUARY 24 Jackie Nale Kealey White
	FEBRUARY 25 Mary Beth Boone Shawntale Tingle

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JUST READ THIS AD.

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Ivy Tech closure of diversity office to impact one Madison employee

BY BOB DEMAREE
Ivy Tech Community College statewide will be closing its Office of Diversity, Equity and Belonging effective March 12, College President Sue Ellspermann said in a letter to students Monday.
The move will impact one employee at the Madison campus who will be assigned to new job responsibilities.
Ivy Tech’s action is in response to executive

orders at the federal level focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and proposed state legislation that puts funding at risk, Ellspermann said.
A total of 31 Ivy Tech positions statewide will be affected, including 21 that will be eliminated and 10 individuals whose job responsibilities will change, said Mary Jane Michalak, statewide Ivy Tech senior vice president of legal and public affairs.

Michalak said one person/position is affected on Ivy Tech’s Madison campus, but that person’s job responsibilities will change and the person will continue to be employed. “The college is taking the next 30 days to work through job descriptions and make adjustments needed on campuses to ensure that students know how they can continue to receive student supports and services,” said Michalak.

In her letter to students, Ellspermann said, “Treating others with respect and understanding is ingrained in the college’s core values of empathy, integrity, and accountability. These same core values will help us move forward together as we help each other through this transition successfully.”
Ivy Tech Community College has 45 locations in Indiana, including 19 full-service campuses and

26 satellite locations. Each location offers different programs and services.
Peter Ashley, vice president for enrollment and marketing at Hanover College, said the private college doesn’t have an office on campus focused specifically on diversity and inclusion. “We just focus in general on having a welcoming campus,” he said, in which diverse student groups are allowed on campus but “we’ve only

been merit based admissions” with grade point average being one of the criteria.
Ashley said he currently does not foresee any DEI initiatives to have any significant impact on Hanover College, but they are “mindful of it and making sure we are aware of it, and not doing anything that is going to cause an issue there, but also continue doing what we’re doing for our students.”

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Fairfield Inn and Suites at the Picker House

108 St. Michael’s Ave., Madison
Thursday, Feb. 20, 6 p.m.
D.L. McIntyre, author of the book “A Wishful Eye”, a historical fiction work based in the Ohio River valley region in the 1800s.
Thursday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.
Curtis Crisler, who was named Indiana Poet Laureate, will be joined with a display of beaded jewelry by Janine Wells.

Madison-Jefferson County Public Library

420 West Main St. Madison
Tuesday, Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m.
JoAnne Spiller, director of education at the Jefferson County History and Art Center, will discuss her book, “Visionary Designs by Bill Smith,” her book about the Madison native who went on to an award-winning career creating and designing jewelry.

EVENTS Valentine’s Day Skate Party

at Brown Gym, 100 Broadway

St., Madison
Friday, Feb. 14 — 5-9 p.m.
Madison Parks Department will hold its final skate party at Brown Gym for the foreseeable future. Cost is \$10 per skater. Skate rental fee \$5 or bring your own skates. Fee for non-skating spectators is \$5. Concessions available on site.

ORGANIZATIONS Golden Gate Choir

Osgood, Indiana
Sunday, Feb. 16 — 1:30 p.m.
The Golden Gate Choir has issued a call-out for singers to perform in its Palm Sunday Cantata “Is He Worthy” and “Easter: The Story of Redemption” on Sunday, April 13 at the Damm Theater in Osgood.
Practices will begin on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church on Walnut Street in Osgood, and then be held weekly on Sundays at the same time and location. The choir is a non-denominational organization of people who love to sing praises to the Lord. Participants will be given a CD and music to practice to at

home between Sunday practices. Contributions are appreciated to help cover the cost of music, postage and theater rental.
For more information, call choir director Sharon Miller at 812-871-3401, president and founder Connie Deburger at 812-621-7428, treasurer Billie Ebinger at 812-756-8438 or publicist Laura Prosser at 812-756-1031.

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry

National Guard Armory
1533 Clifty Drive, Madison
March 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry in Jefferson County, has shifted back to the second Monday of each month after being postponed by weather in January. The event serves about 250 families locally with a drive through food distribution from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or when supplies run out.
Salvation Army Food Bank
331 East Main St.
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays noon-1 p.m.

A food giveaway at the red door on east side of building. Bring your own bags.
For more information, call 812-265-2157.
House of Hope Food Pantry
100 East 2nd St., Madison
Tuesdays 5-7 p.m.; Fridays 9-11 a.m.
A food giveaway and distribution at the Jefferson County House of Hope Food Pantry in downtown Madison. Please arrive at the pantry 15 minutes prior to closing to be served.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTIONS Jesus Clothes Closet

Trinity United Methodist Church
412 W. Main St., Madison
Mondays 9-11 a.m.
Jesus Clothes Closet distributes free clothing to those in need. For more information, call 812-866-4843.

SENIOR EVENTS Hanover Senior Citizens Center

Exercising: The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is offering free exercising at the Hanover Park Community Center on Mondays

and Thursdays at 10 a.m.
Lunch: The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is serving lunch at noon on Fridays at the Hanover Park Community Center.
Cost is \$5 and RSVP is required by calling 812-498-2894.
Madison Senior Citizens Center Senior Meals: Lifetime Resources will be providing congregate meals at the Madison Senior Center, 208 West Main St. on Tuesday and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Meals are free for anyone over age 60 with a suggested donation of \$6.
Meals are \$6 for anyone under age 60.
Game Days: The Madison Senior Citizens Center hosts weekly card days and Bingo at the Senior Citizens Center in downtown Madison.
The schedule includes Euchre on Mondays and Thursdays from noon until 10 games are completed and Bingo on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m.
The games are free and open to senior citizens.

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JOIN US!

Bethany Legacy Foundation Event

Bethany Legacy Foundation has completed a multi-year strategic plan. We invite you to join us to learn more.

Fairfield Inn & Suites Madison Historic Eagle Cotton Mill
108 St Michaels Ave, Madison, IN 47250

March 6, 2025 | 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Bethany Legacy Foundation: The Path to 2030

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM will be a networking and hors d'oeuvres hour featuring a surprise local artist, followed by the program and speakers from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Meet our Speakers 



Beth Keeney
LifeSpring Health Systems



Cam Camfield
Stratovation Group



Rick Williams
Home Ownership Center

Scan here for more information and to RSVP!



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane




2-14

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"Home is where the heart is.
Especially in February."

DENNIS THE MENACE



2-14

"I MADE YOU A VALENTINE, MOM...
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER WHERE I PUT IT."

ARCTIC CIRCLE



CLIMATE CHANGE IS INCREASING THE COST OF NATURAL DISASTERS.

WE COULD STOP PAYING FOR INSURANCE AND INVEST IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

THAT IS INSURANCE.

BIZARRO



Relax, I'm the
god of passing
infatuation. See?
Foam tips.

BEETLE BAILEY



I'M ALL OUT OF SNACKS, BUT I SAW LT. FUZZ PUT A BAG OF CHIPS IN HIS DESK DRAWER

SNAP

AHA!

GREG + MORT WALKER

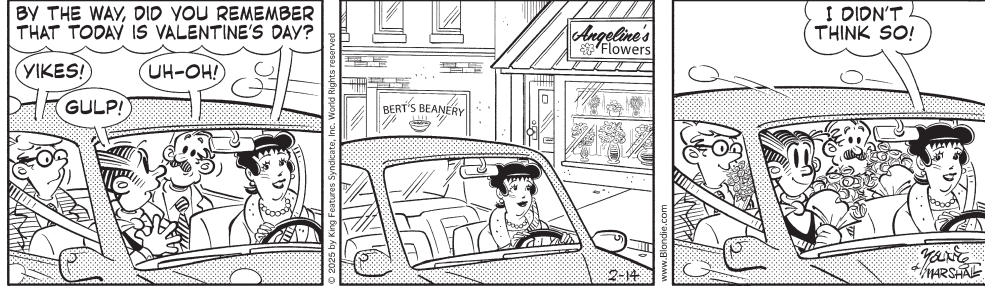
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



THE PROPOSAL

AND FOR OUR HONEYMOON, WHAT D'YOU SAY WE TIE OURSELVES TO THE BACK OF A LIMO?

BLONDIE



BY THE WAY, DID YOU REMEMBER THAT TODAY IS VALENTINE'S DAY?

YIKES!

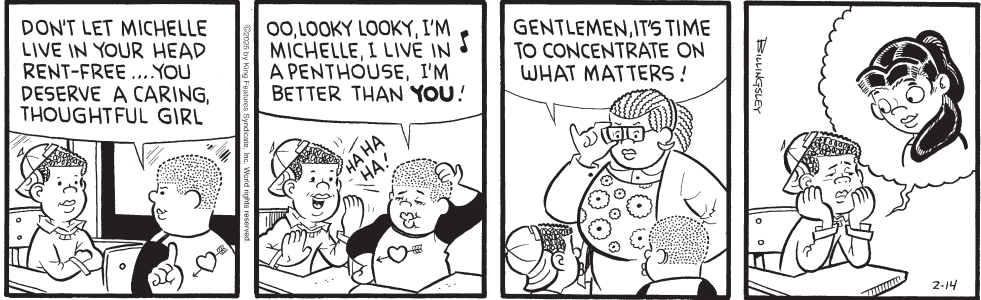
UH-OH!

GULP!

I DIDN'T THINK SO!

I DIDN'T THINK SO!

CURTIS



DON'T LET MICHELLE LIVE IN YOUR HEAD RENT-FREE ... YOU DESERVE A CARING, THOUGHTFUL GIRL.

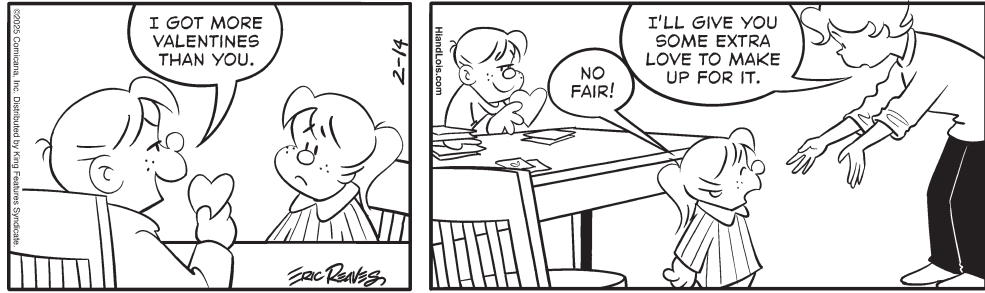
OO, LOOKY LOOKY, I'M MICHELLE, I LIVE IN A PENTHOUSE, I'M BETTER THAN YOU!

HHA HHA

GENTLEMEN, IT'S TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON WHAT MATTERS!

GENTLEMEN, IT'S TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON WHAT MATTERS!

HI & LOIS



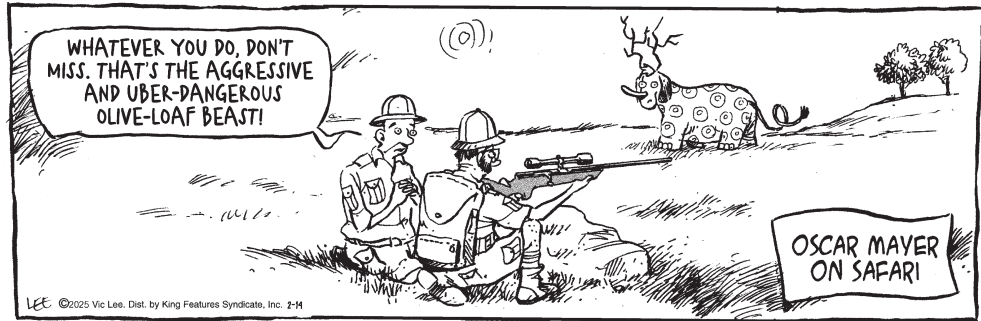
I GOT MORE VALENTINES THAN YOU.

NO FAIR!

I'LL GIVE YOU SOME EXTRA LOVE TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

I'LL GIVE YOU SOME EXTRA LOVE TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

PARDON MY PLANET



WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MISS. THAT'S THE AGGRESSIVE AND UBER-DANGEROUS OLIVE-LOAF BEAST!

OSCAR MAYER ON SAFARI!

ZITS



HAPPY VD.

I'M LATE.

BYE.

WHO WAS THAT FAIRLY-POLITE-ALMOST-PLEASANT-TEENAGE-NEAR-STRANGER?

HE LOOKED FAMILIAR...

DUMPLINGS



LOOK! DANI GOT ME LITTLE HEART-SHAPED TREATS FOR VALENTINE'S!

UMM... I THINK THESE ARE JUST YOUR LITTLE DOGGY BONE TREATS BROKEN IN HALF.

UMM... I THINK THESE ARE JUST YOUR LITTLE DOGGY BONE TREATS BROKEN IN HALF.

UMM... I THINK THESE ARE JUST YOUR LITTLE DOGGY BONE TREATS BROKEN IN HALF.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



YOUR EXCUSE JAR IS EMPTY AND I'M NOT REFILLING IT!

STOP SHOUTING! THE MEDDLING NEIGHBOR LADY WILL HEAR YOU!

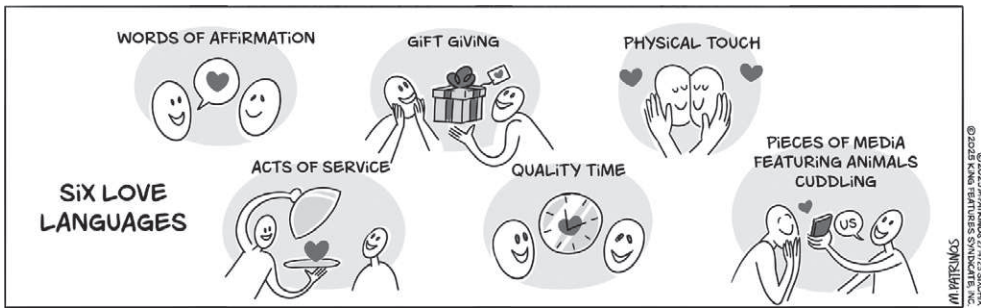
WHO CARES?

YOUR EXCUSE JAR IS EMPTY AND I'M NOT REFILLING IT!

STOP SHOUTING! THE MEDDLING NEIGHBOR LADY WILL HEAR YOU!

WHO CARES?

SIX CHIX



WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

GIFT GIVING

PHYSICAL TOUCH

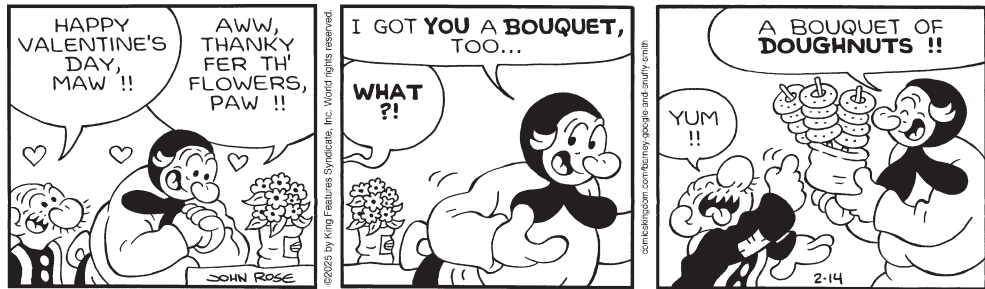
SIX LOVE LANGUAGES

ACTS OF SERVICE

QUALITY TIME

PIECES OF MEDIA FEATURING ANIMALS CUDDLING

BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, MAW !!

AWW, THANKY FER TH' FLOWERS, PAW !!

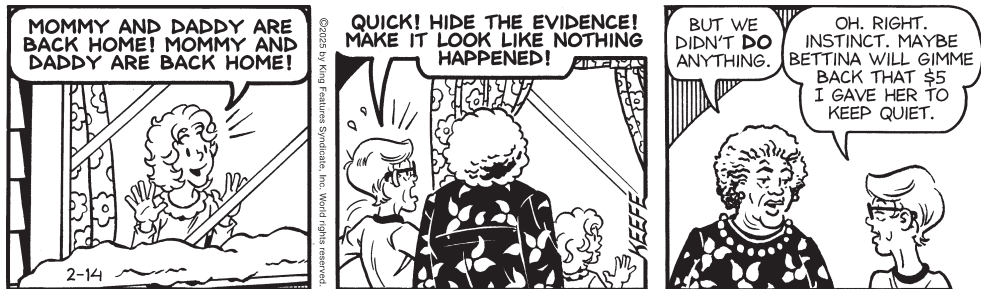
I GOT YOU A BOUQUET, TOO...

WHAT?!

A BOUQUET OF DOUGHNUTS !!

YUM !!

SALLY FORTH



MOMMY AND DADDY ARE BACK HOME! MOMMY AND DADDY ARE BACK HOME!

QUICK! HIDE THE EVIDENCE! MAKE IT LOOK LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED!

QUICK! HIDE THE EVIDENCE! MAKE IT LOOK LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED!

DUSTIN



I ALSO BOUGHT YOU CHOCOLATES.

BUT I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO CUT DOWN ON SUGAR...

BUT I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO CUT DOWN ON SUGAR...

MUTTS



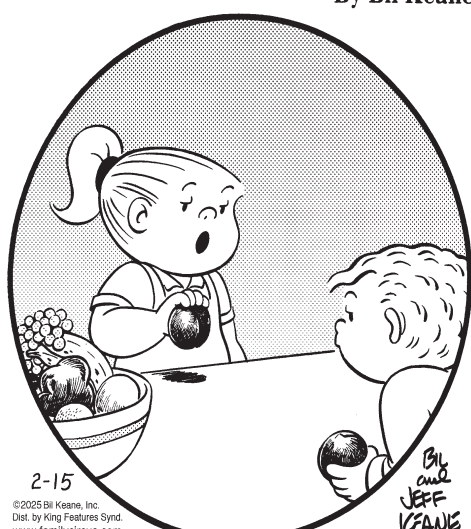
VALENTINE'S DAY!

WHEN WUV CRIES...

"BE MINE!
BE MINE!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



2-15

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Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

"If your plum's too hard, you have to bounce it on the table a few times."

DENNIS THE MENACE



2-15

"THAT WAS A GOOD SERMON YOU GAVE TODAY. TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T GIVE IT LAST SUNDAY."

ARCTIC CIRCLE



WE NEED MORE CITY TREES TO CLEAN OUR AIR...

FOR OUR MENTAL HEALTH...

CRASH!

AND FOR OUR ENTERTAINMENT.

2-15

BIZARRO



I wish I were cute and petite like you.

WANNABE WALLABY

Waymo's P & 4 PIRKS. 2-15-25

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BEETLE BAILEY



I'LL DRINK TO THAT

CLINK

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU GUYS DON'T DRINK TO?

CLOSING TIME

AFTER LAST CALL, OF COURSE

2-15

GREG & MORT WALKER

RHYMES WITH ORANGE



The AS SEEN ONline TV SHOP

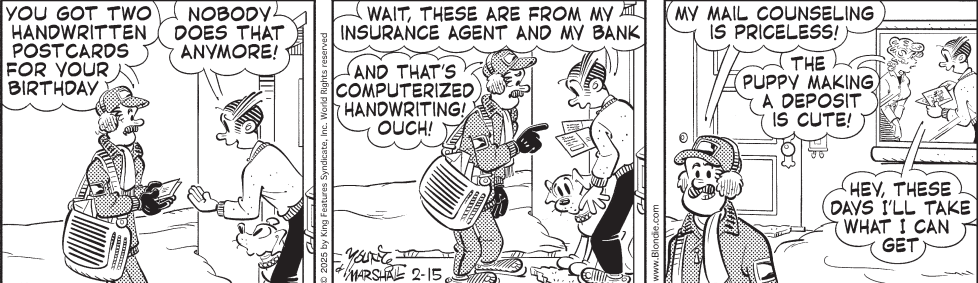
Only 1 left in stock!

BETTER GET IT QUICK!

5 PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT THIS ITEM.

2-15

BLONDIE



YOU GOT TWO HANDWRITTEN POSTCARDS FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY

NOBODY DOES THAT ANYMORE!

WAIT, THESE ARE FROM MY INSURANCE AGENT AND MY BANK

AND THAT'S COMPUTERIZED HANDWRITING! OUCH!

MY MAIL COUNSELING IS PRICELESS!

THE PUPPY MAKING A DEPOSIT IS CUTE!

HEY, THESE DAYS I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET

2-15

CURTIS



STUDENTS, THESE ARE DAYS OF DIVISIVENESS, LITTLE EMPATHY AND SOCIAL SEPARATION

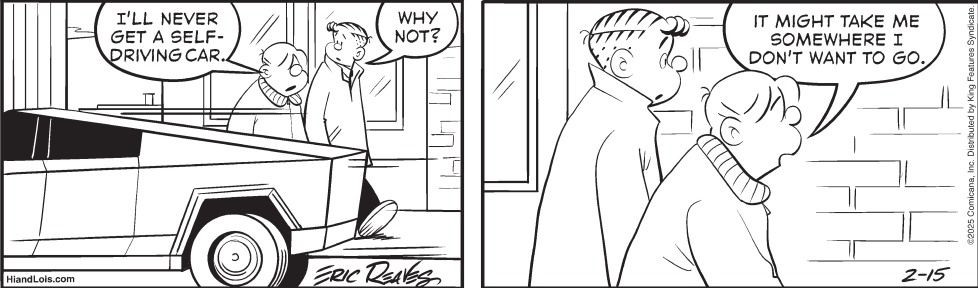
FOR A PROJECT I'D LIKE EACH OF YOU TO MAKE A FRIEND, NOT ON SOCIAL MEDIA, BUT AN ACTUAL FLESH-AND-BLOOD PERSON

IT CAN BE SOMEONE FROM THIS SCHOOL... SHOW FRIENDSHIP START A FRIENDSHIP!

I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

2-15

HI & LOIS



I'LL NEVER GET A SELF-DRIVING CAR.

WHY NOT?

IT MIGHT TAKE ME SOMEWHERE I DON'T WANT TO GO.

2-15

ERIC RENZI

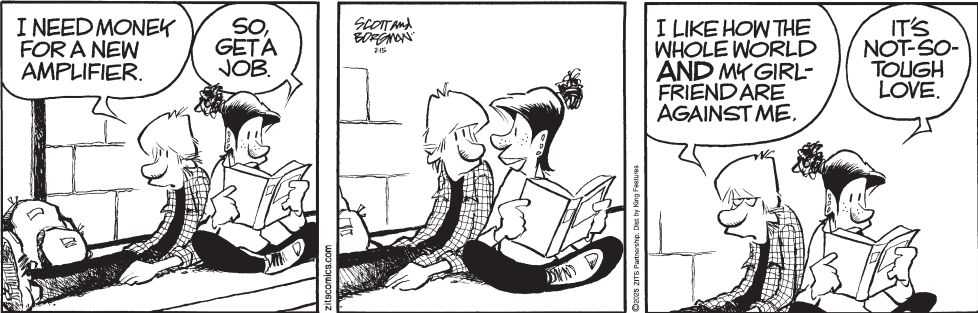
PARDON MY PLANET



IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU - THE LITTLE PEOPLE THAT MADE ALL THIS POSSIBLE. WITHOUT YOU, I WOULDN'T BE HERE.

2-15

ZITS



I NEED MONEY FOR A NEW AMPLIFIER.

SO, GET A JOB.

I LIKE HOW THE WHOLE WORLD AND MY GIRL-FRIEND ARE AGAINST ME.

IT'S NOT-SO-TOUGH LOVE.

2-15

DUMPLINGS



I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE DAIRY MART TO OPEN.

WHAT?! HOW CAN YOU THINK OF ICE CREAM WHEN IT'S NEGATIVE DEGREES OUT HERE?

OH, QUIT WHINING - IT'S BARELY UNDER THIRTY.

MAYBE I WAS TALKING CENTIGRADE!

2-15

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



I'LL RAISE YOU!

IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT YOU THINK YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS A PRIZE!

2-15

SIX CHIX

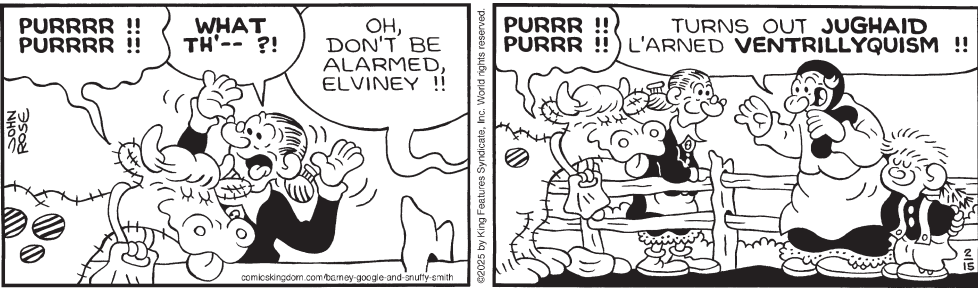


I've decentered dating from my life! I deleted ALL the apps! I'm DONE!

I'm glad to hear it!

2-15

BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



PURRRR !!

WHAT TH'-- ?!

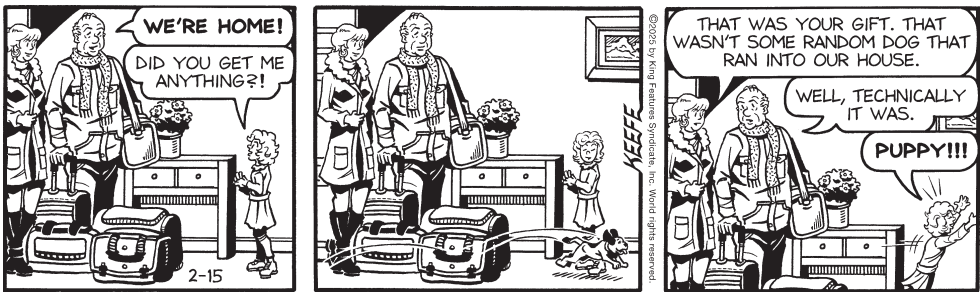
OH, DON'T BE ALARMED, ELVINEY !!

PURRR !!

TURNS OUT JUGHAID L'ARNED VENTRILLYQUISM !!

2-15

SALLY FORTH



WE'RE HOME!

DID YOU GET ME ANYTHING?!

THAT WAS YOUR GIFT. THAT WASN'T SOME RANDOM DOG THAT RAN INTO OUR HOUSE.

WELL, TECHNICALLY IT WAS.

PUPPY!!!

2-15

DUSTIN

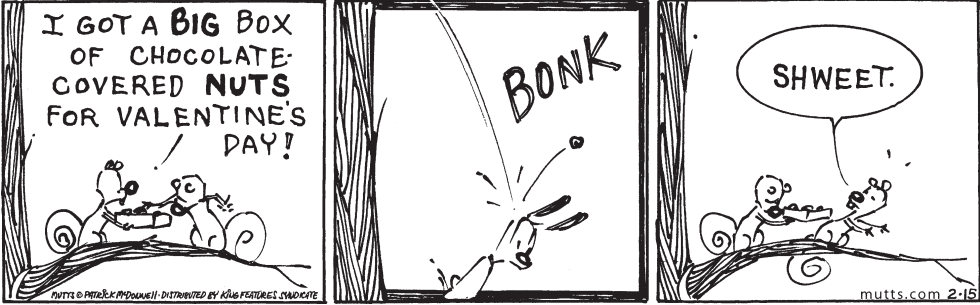


DO YOU THINK I COME IN HERE BECAUSE I LIKE REJECTION?

HONESTLY, IT WOULD EXPLAIN A LOT.

2-15

MUTTS



I GOT A BIG BOX OF CHOCOLATE COVERED NUTS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY!

BONK

SHWEET.

2-15

OBITUARIES

Bradley Roland ‘Brad’ Barron

Bradley Roland “Brad” Barron, age 64, of Hanover, IN, entered this life on Feb. 27, 1960, in High Point, NC. He was the loving son of the late Roland Rudolph and Sandra Freeman Barron. He graduated from Floyd Central High School in New Albany, in 1978. He later attended trade school for veneering. On Oct. 21, 1983, he was united in marriage to Christy Elaine Bierly in Scottsburg, IN. This happy union of 41 years was blessed with sons, Daniel Roland and Joshua David. He resided in the Hanover community the past 36 years. He had worked for Heritage Hardwoods and a buyer of veneer for over 20 years. He was a member of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Milton, KY. He loved to play Yahtzee with his family, fishing, hunting, gun collecting, knife collecting, and listening on his Ipod. Bradley died on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at 5:36 a.m., at the Norton King’s Daughters’ Hospital in Madison, IN.

Bradley will be missed by his loving his wife of 41 years, Christy Elaine Bierly Barron of Hanover, IN; his sons, Daniel Roland Barron of Clarksville, IN, Joshua David Barron of Clarksville, IN; his granddaughter, Brooklynn Barron; his brother, William P. Barron of Cincinnati, OH; his mother in law, Donna Huffines



of Pekin, IN; his nephew, Zack Barron; his sisters in law and brothers in laws, Debbie Hein of Pekin, IN, Teresa Closs and her husband, Jack of Buffalo, NY, Melvin Bierly and his wife, Ginnie of Pekin, IN, Cathy Beams of Pekin, IN; several Bierly nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father, Roland Rudolph Barron, his mother, Sandra Freeman Barron, his brother, Steven F. Barron, his father in law, Lowell Eugene Bierly, his brother in law, Raymond Bierly.

Friends may visit Saturday from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warriors. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorial, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Daniel Bryant Poe

Daniel Bryant Poe, 49, of Bedford, KY, suddenly and unexpectedly passed away from cancer on Thursday, Feb. 6th, 2025, at Baptist Hospital East in Louisville, KY, with loved ones around him.

Born on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 1975, at Carroll County Memorial Hospital, Daniel was the youngest son of Joan M. Spivey Poe of Madison, IN, and Paul Poe of Bedford, KY.

Daniel was the youngest of three brothers and will be deeply missed and loved by his surviving family members: his parents, Paul and Joan Poe, Bedford, KY; his eldest brother, Paul Aaron Poe of Strafford, NH; his middle brother, Christopher David Poe of Bedford, KY, and his former sister-in-law, Tracy Findlay Poe of Bedford, KY.

He was a beloved uncle to his niece, Briannah Marie Poe of Orlando, FL, and his nephews, Reese Aaron Poe, David Bryant Poe, and Brady Christopher Poe, all of Bedford, KY.

From an early age, Daniel found joy on the baseball field, a passion that remained with him throughout his life. Whether playing in little league or later as a Raider, or with friends and local teams, the game brought him lifelong happiness, friendships, and cherished memories.



New York Institute of Photography. With an eye for beauty and precision, Daniel specialized in photographing the natural landscapes of his beloved Kentucky, as well as portraiture, and live-action sports photography.

Through his lens, he preserved the people and places he held dear and there it will always be, in that moment and a product of that time for future generations to have a window to his past.

Yet nothing in life brought Daniel more joy than the time he spent with his nephews — whom affectionately called him Uncle “Deet” or just Deet. Whether they were fishing the pond all day without a nibble; or just goofing off, telling jokes and stories; or, taking batting practice in the backyard -

It was the laughter, the excitement, and their endless energy, in which Daniel found some of his life’s greatest and fulfilling moments.

Family and friends are invited to gather for a remembrance service to celebrate Daniel’s life at Pleasant View Baptist Church, 498 Wises Landing Road, Bedford, KY, on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, from 2 until 4 p.m.

Daniel’s legacy of kindness, creativity, and love, for the game will live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

Lillian L. Vest Albert Burkhardt

Lillian L. Vest Albert Burkhardt, age 68, of Milton, Kentucky entered this life on September 20, 1956 in Paris, Kentucky. She was the loving daughter of the late Lawrence M. and Vera Delores Fugate Vest. She was raised in Bourbon County until the age of six, and the family moved north. She graduated in 1974 from Trimble County High School. She was of the Christian faith and enjoyed feeding her hummingbirds, riding motorcycles, and being in nature. She had last worked as a clerk for the Milton BP Station and previously worked at Riverside Produce for 15 years. She worked early in life for Kawneer Company, the 307 Restaurant and the Clifty Inn. Lillian died on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at 2:05 p.m. at her home in Milton, KY.

Lillian will be missed by her loving husband, Forrest “Keith” Burkhardt of Milton, KY; her daughter, Lea Michelle Albert of Madison, IN; her stepsons, Michael Leon Albert, Jr. and his wife, Elizabeth Ann of Seymour, IN, Mickey Lee Albert and his wife, Leana of Hanover, IN; 2 step-grandchildren and several step great-grandchildren; her sisters, Teresa Ann Vest of Milton, KY, Velvet Durbin and her husband, Tony of Sellersburg, IN; her brothers, Timothy Vest and his wife Dee of Madison, IN, Wendell Vest and his companion, Nina LaPine of Madison, IN, Woody Vest of Milton, Kentucky, Rocky Vest and his wife, Angela of Madison, IN; her mother-in-law, Betty Burkhardt of Milton, KY; her brother-in-law, Stacy Burkhard and his



wife, Melissa of Milton, KY; her sisters-in-law, Cathy Pratt and her husband, Mark of Oak Ridge, TN; Theresa Edwards of Madison, IN; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lawrence M. Vest, her mother, Vera Delores Fugate Vest, her first husband, Michael Leon “Mikey” Albert, Sr. died Dec. 18, 2015, her brothers, Glendis Michael Vest, and Charles Wilbur Vest, her nieces and her nephew, April, Michael and Jessica Burke.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, at 11 a.m., by Bro. Aaron Snelling at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Moffett Cemetery in Milton, KY.

Friends may visit Thursday from 4 — 7 p.m., and Friday from 10 a.m., until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Howard Barr, 66, of Madison, IN, died Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at the Ascension St. Vincent Jennings Hospital in North Vernon, IN. Cremation was chosen with no services to be held. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover, www.morgan-nay.com.

Sarah Beth Craig, 43, of Bedford, KY, died Friday, Feb. 7, 2025 in Bedford. Services will be private for the family. Arrangements by Ransdell Funeral Home of Bedford, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

David G. Hale, 72, of Madison, IN, died Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, at his residence in Madison. Cremation was chosen and no services at this time. Arrangements by Lytle Welty Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Vail Chapel, in Madison, www.lytlewelty.com.

Larry Wayne Hickman, 72, formerly of Rising Sun, IN, died Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at his winter residence in Pace, FL. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, at Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home Vevay, IN, with interment to follow at the Wallick Cemetery, near Rising Sun, www.haskellandmorrison.com.

Sandra Kay “Sandy” Judkins, 73, of Deputy, IN, died Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025, at her residence. Cremation was chosen and no services at this time. Arrangements by Lytle Welty Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Vail Chapel, Madison, IN, www.lytlewelty.com.

Sandra Sue Weaver May, 83, of Carrollton, KY, died Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at the home of her daughter in Bedford, KY. Memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Carrollton Christian Church in Carrollton, with a celebration of life at 3 p.m. at the Picker House in the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Madison. A burial service will take place at a

later date. Arrangements by Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton, www.tandyeckler-rileyfuneralhome.com.

Billy Louis Nevils Sr., 60, of Madison, IN, and formerly of Ghent, KY, died Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, at his home in Madison. Funeral service was Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Ghent Second Baptist Church in Ghent. Arrangements by Graham-Dunn Funeral Home in Carrollton, KY, www.grahamdunnfh.com.

Jeffrey David Padgett, 60, of Avon, IN, died Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025. Arrangements will be announced by Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home in Vevay, IN, www.haskellandmorrison.com.

David Leroy Perry, 85, of Hanover, IN, died Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at Norton King’s Daughters’ Health in Madison, IN. Arrangements will be announced by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover, www.morgan-nay.com.

Maria Mendoza Gonzalez Ramirez, 52, of Carrollton, KY, died Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at Baptist Health Hospital in Lagrange, KY. Arrangements will be announced by Lytle Welty Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Madison, IN, www.lytlewelty.com.

David William “Dave” Thomas, 67, of Madison, IN, died Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at Norton Hospital in Louisville. Memorial service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, by the Fraternal Order of Police, Stacks of Power Lodge No. 128, at Morgan and Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, www.morgan-nay.com.

Ernest Jeffrey “Jeff” Waggoner, 73, of Madison, Indiana, died Monday, February 10, 2025, at his residence in Madison. Arrangements will be announced by Lytle Welty Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Vail Chapel, in Madison, www.lytlewelty.com.

www.madisoncourier.com

SEE OBITUARY/PAGE A8

MATCHING \$ AVAILABLE!

On January 25th, the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County kicked off its 2025 Matching Campaign! The Foundation is providing matching funds totaling \$250,000*.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE CAUSES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS YOU CARE ABOUT!

Donations to existing or new endowed funds at the Foundation will be matched **25%****.

What does that look like?



\$100 donation
+ **25% match (\$25)**

\$125 to your endowed fund of choice ***



\$1,000 donation
+ **25% match (\$250)**

\$1,250 to your endowed fund of choice***

Be sure to act now as previous matching opportunities have disappeared quickly!!

*The maximum match percentage total is \$25,000 per donor/household.
**Matching program ends when the total dollars available are claimed.
***Donations to non-permanent funds are not eligible for the matching program.

COMMUNITY



FOUNDATION

JEFFERSON COUNTY

416 West St., Suite B, Madison, IN 47250 | 812-265-3327 | info@cfmjc.org | www.cfmjc.org

BZA grants variance for Vaughn Drive home

BY BOB DEMAREE

A variance of use to allow for a property at 1023 Vaughn Drive to be zoned open space was approved by the city of Madison’s Board of Zoning Appeals at its meeting Monday.

The application had come before the Plan Commission last month but was rejected because it didn’t want to set a precedent for spot zoning, and felt the request could be better handled as a variance by the BZA.

The application was filed by Ryan Leach, owner of Leach & Brown Construction LLC, on behalf of owner John Bennett because compliance is needed before any improvements can be made to the house to extend walls to go around an existing porch, which will not change the footprint of the residence.

The structure, which sits on stilts, was built in 1996 but there is no information in the city’s records specifying how it happened to be built in an area zoned open space.

At last month’s Plan Commission meeting, Madison resident Charlie Ricketts had spoken out against “spot zoning” that would be created in the area that’s

zoned open space and was back at the BZA meeting stating his support for the variance.

“My understanding is the place has been there for almost 30 years” without causing any problems for anyone, and even though it shouldn’t have been built at the time where it wasn’t zoned to be, “now we’re here to deal with it and I don’t think anyone is seriously going to want to tear it down. All they want to do is make it a little more livable. I ask you to grant the variance.”

In another application, a conditional use permit for an in-home daycare at 1110 North Borcherd- ing Road for Mikel and Ligia Thornton was approved by a 4-1 vote.

Board member Karl Eaglin was the no vote, stating “I’ve got some concerns” based on comments from their next door neighbor, Doug Purcell at 1090 North Borcherd- ing Road, who told of an abundance of animals on the property, citing chickens, dogs and cats, and stating that Mikel Thornton had alleged- ly shot a dog that had killed some of the chickens. “He’s got some complaints that should be addressed,” said Eaglin.

Mikel Thorton said there was litter of puppies that were given away, and there is currently only one dog, which belongs to his son, and the chickens, and there are no longer any other animals. Ligia Thornton said that because they have foster children there are regular visits from state inspectors.

BZA chair Scott Baldwin put conditions on the approval that the yard be fenced so that animals and children cannot leave the property, that any complaints by police will require a hearing before the BZA and that all state daycare regulations be obeyed.

Baldwin said that if conditions are violated the permit could be withdrawn. He told the Thorn- tons “the purpose is to protect you and make sure you do what you say you are going to do, and protect the neighbors.” He also stated that beyond any action by the BZA that the daycare will need to go through state licens- ing before it can operate.

The Thorntons said they plan for the daycare to serve up to 12 children with ages ranging from 8 months to 5 years between the hours of 5 a.m. and 6 p.m.

In other business, the BZA:

- Approved a variance from development standards for lot acreage at 1166 East River Bluff Drive where the home of Mark and Lisa Cheatham had to be torn down after catching fire during a lightning strike. The Cheathams are rebuilding the house in the same location, but the zoning ordinance requires an acre of land for new construc- tion and the property is only 0.71 acres.

Baldwin stated that under the 1981 zoning ordinance lots in the River Bluff Estates Subdivision should have been at least one acre but many of the lots there are less than one acre. “There was never a variance granted along the way and so now these homeowners are stuck in a sort of legal morass,” he said.

Board member Mark Acosta, who lives in the subdivision, esti- mated there are 30 lots in that subdivision that have the same issue “because of the way the ini- tial planning went. Some things didn’t happen the way they were supposed to happen” when the subdivision was created.

- Approved a variance of use to allow a photography service business for Joel Ferguson at

723 West Main Street. The prop- erty is in an area zoned specialty district that does not include a classification for a photography studio. However, he noted the site had previously been used as a photography studio by Beth McRoberts.

Board member Nancy Bur- khardt noted that photography not being included in the zon- ing “just doesn’t make sense” because of other types of busi- nesses that are allowed there. “I just think it wasn’t added in at the time” the zoning ordinance was established, she said.

- Approved a conditional use permit for an in-home day care at 904 East Second Street to be operated by Brittany Jackson. She is licensed to have up to 12 children but doesn’t anticipate having that many. Hours will be from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Approved a variance of 5 feet from developmental stan- dards for setback at 904 Lanier Drive, a property owned by Joe Craig, where he wants to build a pole barn. The variance was required after the 30-foot-wide building needed to be shifted to the east due to an old city sewer found on the property.

Carroll officials hear plan for regional drug task force

BY MARK CAMPBELL

Members of Carroll County Fiscal Court on Tuesday agreed in prin- ciple for the county to join and participate in a drug task force that is being organized to more efficiently investigate and prosecute drug sales throughout the region and hold drug traffickers accountable in narcot- ics-related deaths.

The North Central Kentucky Narcotics Task Force is being organized by eight police agencies in Northern Kentucky including the sheriff’s departments in Carroll, Gallatin, Henry, Oldham, Owen and Trimble coun- ties as well as the Ken- tucky State Police and Oldham County Police in an effort to share resources and attack drug problems at the local, regional, state and federal levels.

Kyle Stewart, a former officer with Carrolllton Police Department who now works for the Henry County Sheriff’s Depart- ment, spoke to members of Carroll Fiscal Court Tuesday indicating that Drug Enforcement Agen- cy statistics are showing increases in the number of crystal methamphet- amine and fentanyl cases and the spike in drug use and sales is consis- tent with a spike in drug deaths.

He said the mission of the task force is to com- bat the sale and use of illegal drugs, investigate trafficking in the partici- pating communities and prosecute those who are arrested, investigate all drug overdose deaths within the jurisdiction of raw task force, document all evidence and prepare reports for prosecution and assist local state and federal agencies in nar- cotics investigations with- in the area of the task force.

Most counties current have one of more offi- cers assigned to inves- tigate drug cases but they are also involved in other police work that can impact their ability to focus on drug enforce- ment because they are routinely called upon to respond to other calls. Officers assigned to the task force would for the most part be freed up from routine calls to focus on drug investiga- tions with cases being worked throughout the six county task force.

In addition to investi- gating drug activity and managing criminal infor- mants, task force mem- bers would also take over routine calls that end up being drug related. Calls

coming through the 911 centers would initially involve first responders but once a drug element is determined, the cases would be handed off to the narcotics task force for further investigation.

According to Stewart that will provide more resources to smaller departments that are stretched too thin to see drug investigations through in a timely fash- ion because they are con- stantly responding to new calls as first responders. Having a regional task force can also broaden the scope if drug inves- tigations by sharing resources, information and informants in a crimi- nal activity often includes supply and consumption that extends beyond county and state lines.

The North Central Kentucky Narcotics Task Force would initially include a commanding officer and a team of 3-4 people officers working cases throughout the jurisdiction. And while the participating agen- cies are predominantly sheriff’s offices current- ly, city police forces — especially those with the resources — may opt to later join the operation.

The participating agen- cies have been discuss- ing the project for several months and have come up with a framework that includes a board of direc- tors to provide oversight on budgets, policies and procedures and a com- mand structure to man- age the day to day opera- tions, manage the budget and seek additional fund- ing.

The proposed 12-mem- ber Board of Directors would include one com- monwealth’s attorney, one county attorney or designee and three coun- ty judge-executives or designees, all rotated annually, as well as the chief law enforcement officer of each coun- ty and the KSP Post 5 Captain or designee. To ensure diversity of rep- resentation, no county attorney or judge-execu- tive from the same coun- ty and no commonwealth attorney and county attorney from the same county may serve simul- taneously.

“Every county would have a vote, every county will have a say so and it would be equally distrib- uted throughout the task force,” Stewart noted.

The board will serve as the governing body of the task force, hire the unit commander to run day to day operations, approve the appointment of sworn personnel, meet

monthly or quarterly for progress reports on the operation, approve a budget prepared by the commander and estab- lish task force bylaws and adopt operational policies and procedures. However, the board members will not have access to the names of those being investigat- ed or the criminal infor- mants used on specific cases but rather an over- view of the numbers and kinds of cases being investigated and the sta- tus and results of those investigations.

The task force com- mander will manage day to day operations, be fiscally responsible for maintaining and staying within the budget or seek approval for any addi- tional spending, apply for grants to help pay for the operation, man- age financial accounts related to controlled narcotics transactions and asset forfeitures, manage evidence intake and outtake, transport evidence to labs for test- ing, report results to appropriate authorities for prosecution and han- dle court orders related to evidence destruction and asset forfeitures. In addition, the commander will coordinate with the participating law enforce- ment agencies concern- ing personnel for the task force and make recom- mendations to the board of directors for appoint- ments, draft a policies and procedures manual to present to the board and draft standard oper- ating procedures and guidelines for day to day operation.

Counties unable to pro- vide an officer, are being asked to contribute about \$40,000 toward efforts to launch the unit. The money would most likely come from each county’s opioid lawsuit settlement.

Task forced organiz- ers expect the unit to be self sustaining in the future through grants and assets forfeitures with officers assigned to the task force from local agencies still being paid through their home departments — includ- ing salaries, benefits and expenses like vehicles. After a year of operation, the task force should qualify for state and fed- eral grants — like the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant — and from forfeiture of assets by the drug offenders convicted as cases are prosecuted.

Anything seized in relation to successful narcotics investigations — cash, cars and other

property with the excep- tion of guns — is sold with 85% of the proceeds going to the investigating agency of which 50% goes to the office of the prose- cutors.

“That’s how we fund the operation without having to come back to the fiscal courts for more money,” said Stewart.

“It’s just like building a business. You don’t start out on top and there will be some hiccups along the way but I think in the end it’s going to be successful,” said Henry County Sheriff Keith Perry, who attended the meeting along with Gall- atin County Judge-Execu-

tive Ryan Morris.

The bigger benefits is getting drugs out of the community. Based on statistics from other nar- cotics task forces in the state — and there are several —as drug arrests go up, violent crimes and crimes like theft have gone down.

“Ninety-five% of our crimes that are felonies are drug-related includ- ing most burglaries and thefts,” noted Carroll County Attorney Nick Marsh. He noted that being able to thorough- ly investigate overdose deaths will increase the chances that some responsibility can be

assigned to the drug traf- ficker to be held account- able to facilitating in the death.

Although fiscal court agreed to participate in the task force in prin- ciple, an actual contract has not been signed and Carroll Judge-Execu- tive David Wilhoite said Wednesday there are details still to be worked out.

Stewart said the group working to develop the task force will meet again on Feb. 21, at the KSP Post 5 in Campbellsburg, and invited Carroll Coun- ty officials to attend that meeting and follow the progress of the proposal.

Should You Invest in Gold in 2025? Consider These Pros and Cons



Stephen Dybwad “Layin’ it on the line”

By Stephen Dybwad Retirement Planning/Wealth Management

Gold has long been considered a store of value, but its role in a modern investment portfolio is a subject of ongoing debate. While some see it as a hedge against inflation and economic uncertainty, others view it as a volatile and unproductive asset. Understanding the pros and cons is crucial before deciding whether gold is right for you in 2025.

A Brief History: The U.S. dollar was tied to gold for nearly two centuries until 1971 when President Nixon severed that link. Since then, the dollar has been a fiat currency, backed by the government rather than a physical commodity. This shift has arguably increased gold’s allure as a potential safe haven during times of economic instability.

Pros of Owning Gold:

1. Tangible Asset: Gold is a physical asset you

can hold and possess. Unlike some investments, it doesn’t rely on a company’s performance or a digital ledger. Its enduring nature is also appealing; gold doesn’t tarnish or degrade over time. It can also function as an alternative currency, used for trade or barter.

2. Aesthetic Value: Gold’s beauty and desirability are undeniable. Gold jewelry remains a popular gift and a symbol of status and affection across cultures.

3. Perceived Safe Haven: Gold is often seen as a hedge against economic turmoil. When traditional investments like stocks and bonds falter, some investors flock to gold, driving up its price. This perceived safe-haven status can provide a sense of security during uncertain times.

Cons of Owning Gold:

1. Security Concerns: Physical gold needs secure storage, whether in a safe, a bank vault, or another secure location. This can be a source of stress and requires careful planning. The risk of theft or loss is a real concern, and insurance costs can add up.

2. Limited Utility and No Income Generation: Unlike real estate or stocks, gold doesn’t generate income. It has minimal industrial use compared to other precious metals like silver or platinum. Its value is primarily derived from its perceived scarcity and its role as a store of value. You can’t rent it out like a property or receive dividends like a stock. Profit is only realized when you sell the gold at a higher price.

3. Hidden Costs: The true cost of owning gold often goes beyond the purchase price. There are premiums to pay when buying, fees when selling, and ongoing storage

and insurance costs. These expenses can eat into your returns and should be factored into your investment decision.

Should You Own Gold in 2025?

The decision to invest in gold is highly personal and depends on your individual circumstances, risk tolerance, and investment goals. If you’re primarily driven by fear of economic collapse or high inflation, gold might offer some comfort. However, if you have a longer investment horizon and are comfortable with market fluctuations, other investments might offer better growth potential.

How to Invest in Gold:

If you decide to invest in gold, it’s crucial to work with a reputable dealer. Consider purchasing gold coins or bars, which are often seen as a safeguard against scams. Do your due diligence, compare prices, and understand the associated costs before making any investment decisions. Consulting with a financial advisor can also be beneficial to determine if gold aligns with your overall investment strategy.

Stephen Dybwad, a long-time Hoosier resident, is a member of Syndicated Columnists, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management. Syndicated Columnists is the sole provider of this material, both written and conceptual, for this column. All rights reserved.

Kasper Insurance 220 Clifty Drive Madison, IN 47250 Telephone 812-273-1187. Stephen Dybwad (annuity.com)

Plan Commission OKs zoning amendment for downtown Circle K

BY BOB DEMAREE

An application to amend the city’s zoning map for the Circle K at 224 East Second Street was approved at Monday’s Madison Plan Commission meeting, consolidating three existing parcels that are located within the overall property boundary to bring the property into compliance with current planning and zoning regulations.

The action is needed prior to improvements as the gas station to modernize the interior that includes a 100-foot addition on to the east side of the building. Last month, the property received approval for the work by the Historic District Board of Review.

Angie Lobb, who owns the bed and breakfast at 213 Jefferson Street, south of the Circle K, wanted assurance that the addition “doesn’t extend back and interrupt an historic rock wall that is in place” on her property behind the gas station.

Jacob Moss, vice president of the architectural firm Nova Group, said the addition will be “flush with the back” of the building so it doesn’t extend to the area Lobb mentioned, adding he would make certain there isn’t anything in the design that will affect that wall, and also make certain that the building owner, Mac’s Convenience Stores LLC is aware of the wall and that issue.

Kentucky governor signs GOP-backed income tax cuts

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear signed a bill into law last Thursday that will reduce Kentucky’s individual income tax, expressing confidence that economic growth will offset the loss in revenue.

The measure, which will lower the tax rate from 4% to 3.5% starting next year, sailed through the Republican-led Legislature in the first five days of its session. Beshear followed through on his pledge to sign off on the cut, which is meant to offer relief to Kentuckians dealing with stubbornly high consumer prices.

“This move will put more money in your pocket while things cost too much,” Beshear said at his weekly news conference at the Statehouse.

The income tax cut was a top Republican priority and is the latest of its kind since the GOP gained full control of the Legislature in 2017.

Supporters say the lower rate will promote long-term economic growth and population

gains in the Bluegrass State by enabling people to keep more of the money they earn.

Beshear noted Thursday that an analysis estimated that the half-percentage point cut would reduce the state’s general fund revenues by \$718 million annually once it is fully implemented. The general fund pays for most state services, including education, health care and public safety.

Democratic lawmakers were divided on the bill, with critics of the cut saying the lost revenue would jeopardize essential services in times of an economic downturn.

Beshear sounded confident the state can absorb the revenue loss.

“I believe that with the growth we’re seeing in certain areas of revenue, that we’re going to be able to manage that,” he said.

Beshear pointed to the influx of private-sector investment and jobs added in Kentucky in recent years. Republican lawmakers say those successes resulted from business-friendly policies

they passed.

General fund tax receipts in December were up 4.5% from the same period a year ago, the state budget director’s office reported last month. Receipts increased 1.7% for the first six months of the fiscal year that ends June 30.

The push for tax cuts in Kentucky comes as President Donald Trump has proposed tax cuts for individuals and businesses, while governors and lawmakers in some states are seeking to cut more. The movement for more tax cuts comes after most states already have slashed income, sales or property taxes in recent years, and it’s pressing ahead even though state revenue growth has been slowing or stagnating.

Since the passage of a tax overhaul in 2022, the individual income tax in Kentucky has gradually been reduced by increments of a half-percentage point, conditioned on meeting benchmarks to ensure revenues are sufficient to meet state spending needs.

BEAT

FROM PAGE A1

reverb are just mesmerizing. We’ve had vocal choir groups that frankly didn’t want to leave after their performance. They just kept singing, entranced by the experience.”

The fascinating history of Eleutherian College is too in-depth to cover fully in this article. But you should definitely read Wikipedia about its founding and purpose. In a nutshell, it was founded by anti-slavery Baptists who admitted students without regard to ethnicity or gender, including freed and fugitive slaves. It was the first diverse and inclusive higher education institution in Indiana.

The college was founded in large part as a response to the Exclusion Laws which were being passed in Indiana in the 1850s, which essentially outlawed African Americans from living in our state. And the law required black people already living here to register with the local government. It was a pretty shameful time in our Hoosier history, but Eleutherian stood out as a beacon of equity amidst the prevailing racist sentiment.

“We want to have more music performances here,” says Jan, “both to continue the tradition of the place and to expose more people to what we have out here on our shining little hill. It’s really well suited to choral music, of course violins sound great, and any kind of Americana music that is built around an acoustic sound works well. We had Saxton’s Cornet Band play recently, and that was just amazing. Berea College brought a busload of singers up to perform and enjoy the hall, and we pretty much had to turn out the lights and shoo them out, they were having so much fun.

“If anyone is thinking they might like to host a musical performance here at the college, we would be happy to talk to you about it. We’re open to concerts, recitals, choral groups that want to experience the acoustic excellence, or even plays or speeches. Go to Eleutherian-College.org and you’ll find our contact info. Or if you just want to visit and tour the college, we welcome that too. Again, just go to the website, contact us, and we’ll set up an appointment for a private tour.

“People who have not been here before are quite surprised and delighted. There’s this amazingly large three-story

stone structure sitting up on a rise, very picturesque and striking. The town of Lancaster that used to surround the college is essentially gone, so it feels like it’s in the middle of nowhere. It’s just so fascinating to think about the currents of history and culture that led to it being built and then ultimately abandoned. It’s a great story and we want to share it.”

HOT TIP OF THE WEEK

We appreciate all our musical venues in town, of course, including the newly opened Mad Paddle that is really hitting it out of the park. But as I look at the calendar again this week, we have to give a big special shout out to our friends at Rivertown Grill (downtown) and Tailgators (on the hilltop.) Tailgators is hosting live music, including Karaoke, every night of the week from Wednesday through Sunday, and Rivertown Grill is right there with them with music on Wednesday, two shows on Friday, Karaoke on Saturday and a band on Sunday. A sort of different event you might want to take a look at is Saturday night at Red Bicycle Hall, where House of Jane is a Totally Rad Dance Party! Not sure of the details, but it will most assuredly be ... totally rad.

Charlie Rohlfing is a retired advertising man and partner in The Red Bicycle Hall music venue. Look for his distinctive fedora bobbing above the crowd, anywhere live local music is happening.

MUSIC EVENTS SCHEDULE

Friday, February 14

Tailgators — Diamondback (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
First Street Saloon — Hayden James
Rivertown Grill — Zach Hackney (5-8 p.m.)
Rivertown Grill — Vaguely Familiar (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Mad Paddle —BA Blues (7:30-11:30 p.m.)
American Legion — Hanks Last Ride (8 p.m.-Midnight)
Hen & Ben — Valentine’s Event w/American Honey Band (8 p.m.)

Saturday, February 15

First Street Country Saloon — Karaoke
Rivertown Grill — Karaoke (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Red Bicycle Hall — House of Jane’s Totally Rad Dance Party (8 p.m.)
Tailgators — Tailfin Cadillacs (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Mad Paddle — JD Chappell & Strange Brew (7-11 p.m.)
VFW — The Mood (8 p.m.-Midnight)
Thomas Family Winery — Lance Minnis (8 p.m.)

Sunday, February 16

Rivertown Grill — BD32 (7-10 p.m.)
Tailgators — Open Mic Night (8-11 p.m.)

OBITUARY

Patricia Lea Enloe Boone

Patricia Lea Enloe Boone, age 69, of Madison, IN, entered this life July 25, 1955, in Anaheim, CA. She was the loving daughter of the late Jimmy and Ruth McDole Enloe. Patricia died on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, at 6:45 p.m., at the Water’s of Clifty Falls in Madison, IN.

Patricia will be missed by her loving daughter, Tabitha Tolbert-Marsh and her husband, Justin of Deputy, IN; her loving son, Jim Perry and his wife, Luci of New Albany, IN; her sister, Kathleen Enloe Rubio of Madison, IN; her granddaughters, Raye Tackett and her

husband, Evan of New Albany, IN, Madagan Perry of New Albany, IN; her grandsons, Towner Perry of New Albany, IN, Donald Allen Short IV and his wife, Emily of Deputy, IN, Jeremiah Bryan Short of Deputy, IN; her great-granddaughter, Lydia Rosette Koerner of Vevay, IN; her cousin, Marianne Lesea of Madison, IN; and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her father, Jimmy Enloe, her mother, Ruth McDole Enloe, her nephew, Chad Rubio, and her brother-in-law, Ron Rubio.

Memorial services

will be conducted on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, at 2 p.m., by The Rev. Kirstin Springmeyer at the Christ Episcopal Church, 506 Mulberry Street in downtown Madison, IN. A reception will immediately follow the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jefferson County Animal Shelter. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

LLC

FROM PAGE A1

Inn and Suites. “We hope as the property matures, as we get out from under the burden of tax credit investors that we can make more and more contributions to life in Madison. Thank you for what you have done and we’re happy to do this.”

Courtney expressed his appreciation to Bateman for the investment and partnering with the city, stating that the Fairfield Inn and Suites has played a role “in all the investments we’re doing on the riverfront that has really added quality of life, tourism, health and recreational opportunities, and fun things to do.”

Steinhardt anticipates work on Welch Park to begin after the 2025 Madison Regatta in mid to late summer, and be completed by early 2026.

The Redevelopment Commission also approved up to \$90,000 for inspection services with Jacobi,

Toombs and Lanz Engineers (JTL) for the project to connect the Heritage Trail in Madison to the south entrance of Clifty Falls State Park. JTL had previously been contracted to provide engineering services for the trail.

The project has \$2.7 million in funding — \$2,160,160 from the State of Indiana’s Next Level Trails grant program, \$440,000 in Destination Madison dollars from READI 1 funds allocated by Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority, and \$100,000 from the county.

In December, the contract for the project was awarded to Temple and Temple Excavating and Paving at a cost of \$2,294,894, which Steinhardt noted came in under budget, providing funds for contingencies that may be needed while also opening the possibility to doing more development than anticipated. “We had pulled out a number of items” prior to receiving the bids in which eight were

received, expecting the project would cost more. “Signage and other accessories might be added back in on this project. Again, we anticipate a few unforeseen conditions on this. It’s going to be an interesting construction process along Clifty Hollow Road. There are some drainage issues we may anticipate some additional costs.”

He said this week there have been test borings along the trail to “ensure we’re not in conflict with gas lines.”

Courtney said the work on the trail extension combined with the upcoming updates to Main Street will result in slowing traffic as motorists enter that western side of downtown Madison. “That narrows the entrance to Madison, and creates a true gateway element, and slows traffic down,” he said. “West end traffic coming in and out of town is horrible. This will really improve the safety as well as the redesign entrance” to the city on west end.

Happy Valentine's Day

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Courier file photo
Charlie Grooms (pictured) was fired as president of Miss Madison Inc. by Madison Mayor Bob Courtney on Monday. Grooms had been with the team since 1978 with the last 10 years as president.

Grooms out as Miss Madison President as Madison Mayor Courtney cleans house

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

The tumultuous offseason for Miss Madison Inc. continued on Monday with the ouster of team president Charlie Grooms and four members of the board of directors.

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney announced the decision via press release.

Grooms, who had been with the team since 1978 and had served as president since 2015, declined to comment specifically about the action on advice of counsel but he did say that he was surprised by the move.

“I was blindsided,” Grooms told the Madison Courier on Tuesday. “None of us had any idea until we got the letter on Monday.”

Along with Grooms, longtime board members Jeff Kernen, Bob Kirkpatrick, John Knoebel and Dave Taylor were also fired by Courtney, who cited his ability as mayor to oversee all actions of the race team. On Tuesday, he named himself, Madison Regatta President Kyle Bipes,

Madison Regatta Vice-President Tim Bipes, Director of Economic Development Tony Steinhardt III and Visit Madison Tourism Director Andrew Forrester to the board of directors.

The switch is just the latest in what has been a hectic offseason for the Miss Madison Racing Team. Just weeks after the team clinched its 12th National High Points Championship in September, rumors began circulating that the team was for sale. Various media reports said that Seattle-area businessman Bruce Ratchford purchased all of the team’s assets, including both of the team’s Unlimited hydroplane hulls.

Grooms had declined to publicly confirm the sale, preferring to wait until everything was official. But leaks from inside the team went public and questions began circulating about the team’s plans.

After a contentious meeting last week between Courtney and the Miss Madison board, the mayor decided to take action, citing the fact there

was “no record of the appointment of current board members by any sitting mayor other than Grooms, and no boat left to manage.”

“The fiduciary responsibility of this board is to seek legal and financial advice regarding all claims and contracts regarding Miss Madison Inc.,” Courtney said in a press release.

“We must act in the best interest of the City of Madison and protect the legacy of Miss Madison, ensuring that any financial claims or obligations are thoroughly examined. I had hoped that resolution over the disposition of Miss Madison’s assets and outstanding contractual obligations and claims could be worked through with the current board but unfortunately that is not the case.”

While Grooms did not dispute Courtney had the ability to make the move, he also noted that the city has no financial stake in the Miss Madison team’s assets.

SEE **GROOMS/PAGE B8**



David Campbell
Madison Consolidated High School senior Mikel Thornton has signed to run track & field at Indiana Tech in Fort Wayne.

Thornton follows Madison pipeline to Indiana Tech

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Madison’s track & field program has made a habit of sending athletes to Indiana Tech over the past decade and Mikel Thornton has become the latest Cub to follow that pipeline and sign with the Fort Wayne school.

For Thornton, the decision to attend Indiana Tech was a no-brainer, especially with Madison’s recent history with the school. And a trip to one of the school’s track camps helped seal the deal.

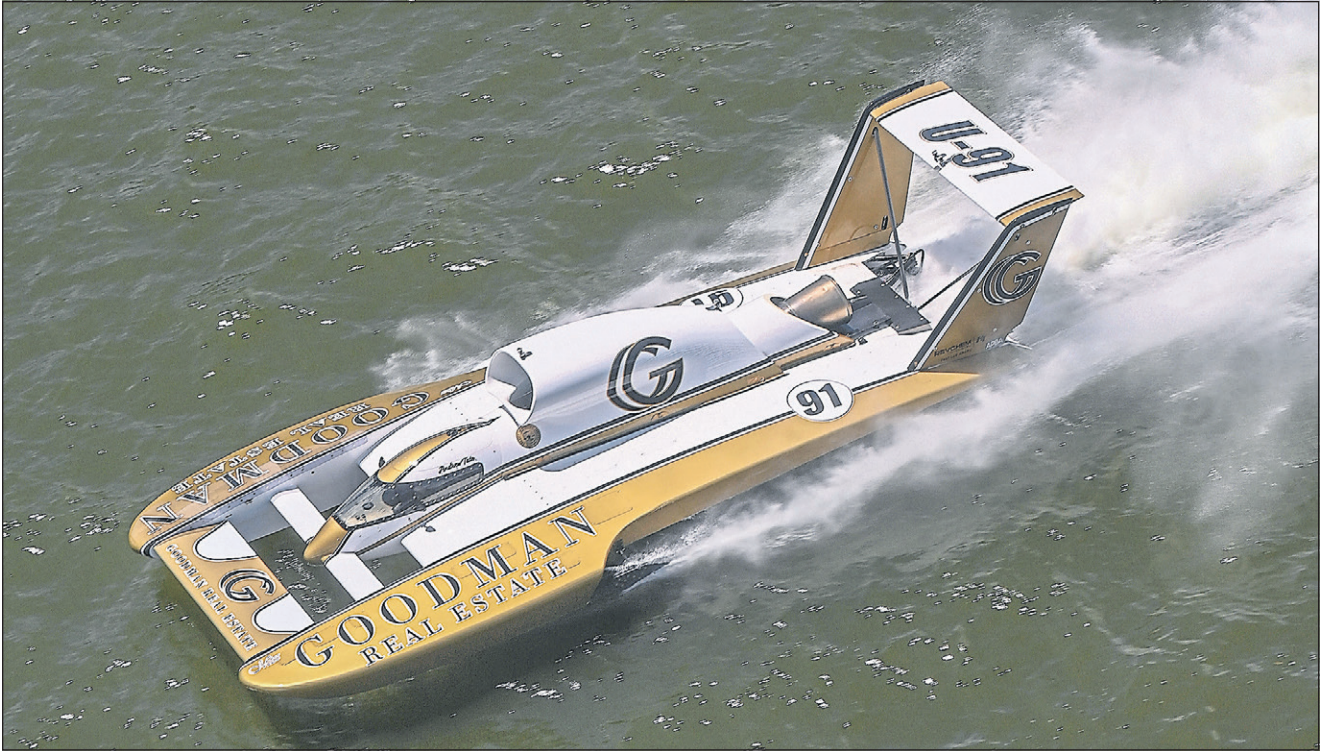
“I looked up some Indiana camps and Indiana Tech stood out. I went up there and I was like ‘I want to go to school here,’ ” Thornton said.

“I did their two-day camp, and then I cleared 6-4 (in the high jump) because they taught me how to do like my lean and broke down in steps. And after that, they gave me a scholarship offer. I had other colleges looking at me, but I didn’t really want to go to them, because I like this college a lot more.”

To call Thornton a late bloomer would be an understatement. As late as last season, Thornton was barely reaching 6-foot in the high jump and while he was getting better, he still struggled with consistency. But after a bit of specialized coaching at Indiana Tech for two days he was reaching heights he never expected.

“When I first started, I just could barely clear 5-foot. I thought I wasn’t really good enough, but I kept at it,” Thornton said.

SEE **THORNTON/PAGE B8**



David Campbell
The assets of Miss Madison Inc. — the boats, trucks, trailers and all equipment — have been sold to Seattle businessman Bruce Ratchford to pay off the team’s mounting debt. The future of the team is currently unknown after president Charlie Grooms and four board members were fired by Madison Mayor Bob Courtney on Monday.

THE POISON PILL

The deal that made the Miss Madison champs also led to its downfall

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

In the winter of 2017-18, the Miss Madison Racing Team signed a sponsorship deal that they felt, at the time, would put them in a position to be the most dominate force in the history of the sport.

What nobody realized at the time was, it would be a deal that would ultimately lead to the downfall of the team.

Last month, Miss Madison Inc. completed an agreement to sell all of its assets to Seattle-area businessman Bruce Ratchford of Apollo Mechanical, including the team’s two championship-winning hulls and its entire inventory in Tukwila, Washington. It was a stunning development for a team that had just finished off its 12th National Championship in the past 16 seasons and appeared, from the outside, to be the model Unlimited hydroplane organization.

The seeds for the Miss Madison’s downfall were likely sown during 2017 when the team signed a

new five-year deal with sponsor HomeStreet Bank. The Miss Madison had just won its fourth-straight National High Points Championship that season — the last two with HomeStreet Bank as the sponsor — and the Seattle-based financial institution was eager to renew.

A new five-year deal was hammered out to sponsor the Miss Madison through the 2022 season, but a second deal was signed at the same time that set the team apart.

HomeStreet Bank agreed to purchase all of the inventory from the former Miss Budweiser team — which had sat idle since 2004 — and to take over the rent for the team’s shop in Tukwila, Washington, giving all of it to the Miss Madison team.

Part of the inventory of the Tukwila shop was the Miss Budweiser’s final hull, the unfinished T-7 boat that was set to debut in 2005.

The Miss Madison team took possession of the T-7, finished the boat and debuted it in 2018.

That new hull was everything everybody had hoped it would be — fast, sleek and the best hydroplane ever built.

But the new boat proved to be the Miss Madison’s albatross. HomeStreet Bank, seeing no financial reason to continue paying for the shop, canceled that second sponsorship deal in 2019, forcing the Miss Madison team to take on the burden of paying the bills, a total of nearly \$225,000 a year in rent and insurance before the lights were even turned on.

“It put us in a bad position because HomeStreet was still our boat sponsor and we had the best boat ever built.

“After five years, the boat would be signed over to us,” said Charlie Grooms, who was ousted as Miss Madison President on Monday.

“We couldn’t just tell HomeStreet off; we would have lost the boat.”

The sponsorship deal with HomeStreet Bank paid that team \$350,000 a year,

but the Miss Madison team was forced to use the bulk of that to pay for the shop. Each year, the team robbed its race budget to pay for the shop as expenses rose.

According to Grooms, the death blow came on the eve of the 2023 race season. He said HomeStreet Bank President Mark Mason called just days before the season opener saying that they were canceling the sponsorship.

To make matters worse, Mason accused the Miss Madison team of violating its contract and was refusing to pay for the season, Grooms said.

Grooms and the Miss Madison team opted to run the 2023 season with HomeStreet Bank’s name on the boat, and without getting another sponsor, to avoid the appearance of violating the contract. But that meant that the team was forced to pay the cost of running the boat — as well as the shop — out of its own pocket.

SEE **DEAL/PAGE B8**

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, FEB. 14 BASKETBALL

- Carroll Co. boys host Dayton, 7:30 p.m.
 - Southwestern boys at Rising Sun, 7:30 p.m.
 - Switzerland Co. boys host Shawe, 7:30 p.m.
 - Trimble Co. boys at Beechwood, 7:30 p.m.
- #### SWIMMING
- Hanover, HCAC Championships at Rose-Hulman, 9 a.m.

- Madison girls, IHSAA State Finals at Indianapolis, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15 BASKETBALL

- Hanover women hosts Franklin, 1 p.m.
- Southwestern boys at Floyd Central, 2 p.m.
- Madison boys host Greensburg, 2:30 p.m.
- Hanover men hosts Franklin, 3 p.m.
- Carroll Co. girls host Villa

- Madonna, 4:30 p.m.
- Trimble Co. girls at Lloyd Memorial, 4:30 p.m.
- Switzerland Co. boys at Austin, 7:30 p.m.

LACROSSE

- Hanover men at Augustana, 2 p.m.
- Hanover women hosts Bethel, 2 p.m.

SWIMMING

- Hanover, HCAC Championships at Rose-Hulman, 9 a.m.
- Madison girls, IHSAA State Finals

at Indianapolis, 9 a.m.

TRACK & FIELD

- Hanover, DePauw Invitational, 11 a.m.

WRESTLING

- Madison, Switzerland Co. boys, IHSAA Semistate at Evansville, 9 a.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16 TENNIS

- Hanover men and women vs. Midway at Lexington, Ky., 1 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 17 BASKETBALL

- Carroll Co. girls host Oldham Co., 7:30 p.m.
- Trimble Co. boys hosts Louisville Collegiate, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18 BASKETBALL

- Carroll Co. boys host Whitefield Academy, 7:30 p.m.

HS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP:

Trimble boys fall to Owen, 63-25

BY THE COURIER STAFF
Trimble County suffered a 63-25 loss at home to Owen County on Monday. Hayden Webster scored seven points to lead the Raiders and Hudson Jent added five. Trimble, now 6-20 overall and 0-10 in 31st District play, travels to Beechwood on Friday and hosts Louisville Collegiate next Monday.

SHAWE BOYS BEAT CHRISTIAN
Shawe boys basketball scored a 71-50 win over Columbus Christian on Tuesday.

The Hilltoppers led 15-11 after the first quarter and by 10 at the half. Shawe then pulled away in the second half. “We started out slow but got things going a little better in the second half. “We were definitely out of rhythm not being in the classroom today,” Shawe coach Dan Hambrick said. “We will refocus and get ready for a tough Switzerland County team.”

Braiden Smith scored 34 points to lead Shawe while Cavaan Hambrick had 16 points and Loren Stiver scored 10. “We are so much better when we can get three guys or more in double figures. “It wasn’t always perfect, but we played well at times,” coach Hambrick said. “I am so proud of this senior group. “They have been good leaders and been with our program



Trimble County's Leonel Rodriquez (13) and Silas Sandusky (right) share a laugh as coach Brent Welty looks on from the sidelines during Monday's boys basketball game in Bedford.



Trimble County's Hudson Jent breaks for the basket after stealing the ball from Owen County's Harper Duvall during Monday's boys basketball game in Bedford.

for many years. Tyler Hill has played a lot of basketball for us over the years and you can always count on his effort and toughness “We will miss him. We will miss all of them, Dylan Fitzpatrick, Nick Schultz and Traevin Liston.” Shawe, now 7-12 on the season, travels to Switzerland County on Friday and hosts Oldenburg on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

TRIMBLE GIRLS LOSE TO OWEN
Trimble County suffered a 39-30 loss at home to Owen County on Monday in girls basketball. Jolie Wilcoxson had 13 points to lead Trimble and Ainslie Stark scored eight. Trimble, now 11-9 overall and 6-3 in 31st District play, hosted Walton-Verona on Thursday and heads to Lloyd Memorial on Saturday. The Raiders host Mercer County on Tuesday.

CARROLL GIRLS SPLIT TWO GAMES
Carroll County girls basketball lost 75-35 at Walton-Verona on Monday and beat Eminence 44-33 on the road Wednesday. Cloie McGuire had 19 points to lead Carroll against Walton-Verona. No statistics were available for the Eminence game. Carroll, now 11-14 overall and 4-6 in the 31st District, hosts Villa Madonna on Saturday and hosts Oldham County on Monday.

CARROLL BOYS FALL TO EMINENCE
Carroll County boys basketball lost 68-42 at Eminence on Wednesday. No statistics were available. Carroll, now 7-15 overall and 2-8 in the 31st District, hosts Dayton on Friday and Valley on Saturday, travels to Williamstown on Monday and hosts Whitefield on Tuesday.

HANOVER ROUNDUP

Panthers drop showdown with HCAC leader Anderson, 84-81

BY THE COURIER STAFF
Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference front-runner Anderson ended Hanover's five-game win streak with an 84-81 win in men's basketball at Collier Arena on Wednesday. Hanover trailed 39-33 at the half and by as many as 13 in the second half before closing strong. The Panthers tied the game at 77-77 on a William Herald bucket with 3:27 to play but could never get over the hump. A free throw by Coleman Sater with 36 seconds to go cut the margin to 82-81 but Anderson's Bryce Williams hit two free throws for the final margin. The Panthers' Cam Freeman missed two free throws with two seconds left. Madison's Luke Miller led Hanover with 28 points,

going 8-for-14 on 3-pointers. Sater had 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists, Herald had 13 points and Malachi McNair had 12 points and seven rebounds. Kenny Troutman had 24 points and Williams scored 19 for Anderson (19-4, 14-2 HCAC). Hanover, now 14-9 overall and 10-6 in the HCAC, hosts Franklin on Saturday and hosts Transylvania next Wednesday in its regular-season finale. **HANOVER WOMEN ROLL ANDERSON** Hanover women's basketball pulled away for a 92-77 win at Anderson on Wednesday. After playing to a 22-22 tie in the first quarter, Hanover led 42-38 at the half and then

outscored the Ravens by 11 in the third quarter for the difference in the game. Grace Bezold had 29 points and five rebounds to lead Hanover. Sammy Berman had 19 points and five rebounds, Alexis Wines had 15 points, Kady Clancy had 13 points and seven rebounds and Kaitlyn Lorenzi had 10 points. Katherine Benter scored four points but had a team-high 13 rebounds. Hanover, now 17-6 overall and 11-5 in the HCAC, hosts Franklin on Saturday and closes the regular season at Transylvania next Wednesday. **MEN'S LACROSSE WINS** Hanover men's lacrosse scored a 15-5 win at Wilmington on Monday. Ethan Abdoo and Owen

Parker each had three goals and an assist for the Panthers, Dean Henderson had three goals, and Alex Kleinhelter had two goals and two assists. Lance Guttormson had 13 saves in goal and Michael Lang had three saves for Hanover. Hanover, now 1-1 on the season, travels to Augustana (Ill.) on Saturday. **Hanover's Luke Miller, a Madison Consolidated High School graduate and son of Hanover coach Jon Miller, scored a career-high 28 points in the Panthers' loss to Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference frontrunner Anderson on Wednesday.**



David Campbell

Reds to wear No. 14 Rose patch on jersey sleeves in 2025

CINCINNATI — Pete Rose may be on baseball's permanently ineligible list, but the late hit king's No. 14 will be on Cincinnati Reds' uniforms this year. Cincinnati posted a photo of the patch on "X" on Monday with the message "14 on our side all season" and a heart emoji. Rose, who died in September at the age of 83, played 19 of his 24 major league seasons with his hometown Reds. He finished his playing career in 1986 with a record 4,256 hits. The player known as Charlie Hustle was a 17-time All-Star and member of three World Series championship teams. He was NL Most Valuable Player in 1973, and he won three batting titles and two Gold Gloves. A Major League Baseball investigation found he wagered on the Reds to win in games from 1985-87 while playing for and managing the team, and Rose agreed in 1989 to go on the permanently ineligible list. Baseball's Hall of Fame in 1991 adopted a rule barring people on MLB's permanently ineligible list from the Hall ballot. Rose's application for reinstatement was denied by Commissioner Rob Manfred in 2015. MLB did not have any immediate comment on the Reds' decision.

Reds guarantee OF Hays \$5 million; Miley would get \$2.5 million in MLB

CINCINNATI — Former All-Star outfielder Austin Hays is guaranteed \$5 million in his one-year contract with the Cincinnati Reds and can earn \$500,000 in performance bonuses for plate appearances. Hays has a \$4 million salary this season as part of a deal announced Jan. 30. His agreement includes a \$12 million mutual option for 2026 with a \$1 million buyout. The 29-year-old would get \$100,000 for 400 plate appearances and each additional 50 through 600. An All-Star with Baltimore in 2023, he would get a \$125,000 bonus for making the All-Star team again. He also would earn \$125,000 for winning a Gold Glove, Silver Slugger or Comeback Player of the Year. Hays hit .275 with 16 homers and 67 RBIs in 2023. He was traded to Philadelphia last July 26 and batted .256 with two homers and six RBIs in 22 games

while dealing with a kidney infection, finishing the season with a .303 average, five homers and 20 RBIs. Hays became a free agent in November when the Phillies failed to offer a 2025 contract. He had a \$6.3 million salary last year after winning in arbitration. Left-hander Wade Miley, who agreed to a minor league contract on Feb. 4, would get a \$2.5 million salary while in the major leagues and a \$300,000 salary while in the minors if added to the 40-man roster. The 39-year-old could earn \$1.5 million in performance bonuses: \$15,000 for each inning pitched from one through 100. An All-Star with Arizona in 2012, Miley is 108-99 with a 4.07 ERA in 310 starts and seven relief appearances over 14 major league seasons. He was 0-1 with a 6.43 ERA in two starts for Milwaukee last April, then had Tommy John surgery on May 7.

COURIER AREA SPORTS SHORTS

BY THE COURIER STAFF
• Shawe's Allison Knoebel and Madison's Juliana Davis have been honored by the Hoosier Basketball Coaches Association. Knoebel was named to the District 4 All-Senior team and Davis was named to the District 4 Underclass team. • Shawe's Braiden Smith and Southwestern's Natalee Crawford have been named Ohio River Valley Conference players of the week. Smith, a senior, earned the award in boys basketball and had 47 points and 22 rebounds in two games for the Hilltoppers. Crawford, a sophomore, set three school records and finished second in the IHSAA Sectional to earn the award in girls swimming. • Shawe junior varsity boys basketball defeated Columbus Christian 46-26 on Tuesday. Nate Fewell had 14 points for the Hilltoppers. Joe Hart had 13 and Leo Garcia Nonato scored 11. Shawe travels to Switzerland County on Friday. • The Hanover Parks Department has applica-

tions for youth baseball and softball leagues. There are five age groups available ages three through 12. Cost is \$30 with a second child for \$25 and a third \$20. Deadline is March 26. All applications received by the deadline are guaranteed a roster spot. For more information, contact Scott Davidson at sdavidson@townofhanover.net, 812-806-1042 or 812-292-4282. • The Madison Parks and Recreation Department will offer coed T-Ball for children ages 4-6 this summer. In addition to the return of T-ball, Madison Parks and Recreation will also offer youth baseball and softball programs for older children. A Rookie League will be available for kids ages seven to 10, with skill-level-based instruction emphasizing fun and growth. For children ages 10 and older, Minor League Baseball and Softball will provide opportunities for scrimmages and skill development in an instructional setting.

Almonor, Oweh lead No. 15 Cats sweep of No. 5 Vols

BY KEITH TAYLOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Ansley Almonor and Otega Oweh scored 13 points each and No. 15 Kentucky beat No. 5 Tennessee 75-64 on Tuesday night.

The Wildcats (17-7, 6-5 Southeastern Conference) completed a regular season sweep of the Volunteers. Kentucky also beat Tennessee 78-73 on Jan. 28 in Knoxville, and is now 7-1 against teams

ranked in the Top 15 this season.

Koby Brea and Trent Noah added 11 points each. The Wildcats made 12 3-pointers, including three by Noah.

Zakai Zeigler scored 17 points to lead Tennessee (21-5, 7-5), Igor Milicic had 16 and nine



rebounds, and Chaz Lanier added 10 points.

TAKEAWAYS
Tennessee: The Volunteers had a three-game winning streak snapped and fell to 4-4 in road games. Tennessee scored just 26 points in the first half, while leading scorer Lanier (17.7 points per game), was held

to just 10 points.

Kentucky: The Wildcats were without guard Jaxson Robinson, the team's second-leading scorer (13.3 points per game), who sat out because of a right wrist injury. Robinson scored 17 points in the win over the Volunteers on Jan. 28. Kentucky has played just seven games with a full roster this season. Lamont Butler left with 8:40 after apparently re-aggravating his shoulder.

KEY MOMENT

After Tennessee took its second lead with 4:43 left, the Wildcats outscored the Vols 17-4 in the final four minutes. Koby Brea connected on two 3-pointers during the decisive spurt.

UP NEXT

Kentucky plays at Texas on Saturday (TV: Live on ESPN at 8 p.m.).



Duane Bursleson | Associated Press

Michigan center Danny Wolf (1) goes to the basket against Purdue forward Raleigh Burgess during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game on Tuesday in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Wolf scores 15 and No. 20 Michigan holds off No. 7 Boilermakers 75-73

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Danny Wolf scored 15 points, including a pair of free throws in the final seconds, to lead No. 20 Michigan to its fifth straight win, 75-73 over No. 7 Purdue on Tuesday night.

Roddy Gayle Jr. scored 14 for the Wolverines (19-5, 11-2 Big Ten) while Tre Donaldson and Vladimir Goldin scored 12 apiece.

The Boilermakers (19-6, 11-3) were led by Braden Smith with a game-

high 24 points, Trey Kaufman-Renn with 22 points and Fletcher Loyer with 15.

Michigan trailed most of the night, rallying from a 48-38 deficit with 14:44 remaining with a 19-9 run to tie it on a 3-pointer by Nimari Burnett with 5:51 to go. Neither team led by more than four the rest of the way.

The Boilermakers dominated for most of the game, but Michigan kept coming back and trailed

37-35 at the half.

It was the first time the teams had played each other when both were ranked since 2018. The loss ended a four-game winning streak for Purdue.

TAKEAWAYS

The Wolverines assured themselves of at least a tie for first place in the conference with the win.

KEY MOMENT

Smith hit a 3-pointer for Purdue with 16 seconds



Al Goldis | Associated Press

Indiana forward Malik Reneau (5), right, shoots Tuesday against Michigan State forward Xavier Booker (34) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in East Lansing, Mich.

IU upsets No. 11 Michigan State

Indiana's victory denies Izzo breaking Knight's Big Ten record

BY LARRY LAGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State coach Tom Izzo has been trying to downplay being on the brink of breaking Bob Knight's record for Big Ten basketball wins.

Perhaps he knew what was coming Tuesday night.

Indiana beat the 11th-ranked Spartans 71-67, leaving Izzo with 353 conference victories to stay tied with Knight a little longer.

Izzo will get his next shot Saturday night at Illinois.

Former NFL coach Steve Mariucci surprised Izzo by showing up at the Breslin Center, sitting on the Spartans' bench with his back facing Izzo as he walked to the sideline for warmups before Michigan State hosted the Hoosiers.

Izzo and Mariucci, who coached the San Francisco 49ers and Detroit

Lions, grew up together in Iron Mountain in Michigan's upper peninsula and attended nearby Northern Michigan.

The Basketball Hall of Fame coach tied Knight's Big Ten record of 353 conference wins with an 86-74 comeback victory over Oregon on Saturday.

Knight, who died in 2023, led Indiana to three NCAA titles from 1971 to 2000 and was one of Izzo's mentors during his first season as Jud Heathcote's successor at Michigan State in 1995.

Indiana coach Mike Woodson, a star player for Knight from 1976-80, is in his fourth and final year in the latest attempt to return the program to glory. The school announced last week that Woodson is stepping down following the season.

"I can't let them quit," said Woodson, whose team ended a five-game losing streak. "We've just got to keep working and keep pushing each other and see where it leads us."

"We've still got a lot of season left."

Indiana hosts UCLA on Friday (TV: Live on FOX at 8 p.m.).

Louisville routs N.C. State 91-66

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. — Rayne Smith and Terrence Edwards Jr. scored 21 points each and hot-shooting Louisville rolled past N.C. State 91-66 on Wednesday night.

The Cardinals shot 61% in the first half and 67% in the second for 64% overall. They made 35 of 55 shots, 11 of 19 3-pointers and 10 of 11 free throws.

J'Vonne Hadley had 17 points, nine rebounds and four assists for Louisville (19-6, 12-2 ACC). Chucky Hepburn added 15 points.



Trey Parker scored 13 points, Breon Pass and Paul McNeil Jr. 12 each, and Marcus Hill 10 for the Wolfpack (9-15, 2-11), who have lost nine in a row.

After leading by 14 at halftime, the Cardinals pushed their lead to 20 points early in the second half. A 3-pointer from Smith made it 81-53 near the four-minute mark and his 3 a minute later restored the 28-point lead.

Louisville scored the first seven points of the game and the Cardinals led 30-13 after Hadley

made two free throws with about 7 1/2 minutes left in the first half.

N.C. State used a 7-0 run to get within single digits at 36-27 with about a minute to go in the half before a layup by Hepburn and a 3-pointer by Smith put Louisville up 41-27 at the break.

Louisville led 46-16 in points in the paint and 21-10 on the fast break.

N.C. State had 41 bench points, compared to 11 for Louisville.

Louisville moved ahead 15-14 in the all-time series between the two.

Louisville visits Notre Dame on Sunday (TV: Live on ACCN at 6 p.m.).



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220 Clifty Drive, Suite C, Madison 812-273-1187

Briscoe gives Toyota its first Daytona 500 pole

Johnson, Truex also locked into NASCAR opener

BY JENNA FRYER
AP AUTO RACING WRITER

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Chase Briscoe led a banner night for Toyota in qualifying for the Daytona 500 by winning the pole for NASCAR’s “Great American Race.”

It is the first Daytona 500 pole for Briscoe, who moved to Joe Gibbs Racing this season when Stewart-Haas Racing closed at the end of 2024. His move to the No. 19 gave Toyota its first pole in NASCAR’s biggest race of the season.

“A great way to start our season. Unbelievable way to start off the year. Unbelievable way to start off with Toyota,” said Briscoe.

“To be able to be the guy to deliver them the first anything when they’ve already accomplished so much is pretty cool. To think I’m going to start on the front row or on the pole of the ‘Great American Race’ with ultimately the great American brand of (sponsor) Bass Pro Shops is unbelievable. Can’t thank Coach Gibbs enough, the entire Joe Gibbs Racing organization.”

Briscoe’s lap of 182.745 mph held off a slew of Ford challengers. Former Daytona 500 winner Austin Cindric qualified second in a Ford for Team Penske, which started from the pole last year with Joey Logano, who closed the year as NASCAR Cup Series champion.

Ford drivers claimed four of the top five spots in time trials, but only Briscoe and Cindric as the front row starters were locked in Wednesday night.

“A lot of fast Fords,” said Cindric. “Pretty good to start on the front row with one of my good friends. All in all, a great box checked for the start of this week. I think every single part of this weekend is important to setting up with an opportunity to win this race on Sunday.”

The only other drivers locked in during time trials were Toyota drivers Jimmie Johnson and Martin Truex Jr., who were not guaranteed entry but posted speeds fast enough to claim two of the four “open” spots in the race.

The remainder of the starting order is set Thursday night in a pair of qualifying races.

There are nine drivers entered for four open spots and Truex and Johnson claimed two of them in time trials. Johnson is a seven-time NASCAR champion, two-time Daytona 500 winner and member of the Hall of Fame.

Truex is the 2017 Cup champion and in his first year of not racing NASCAR full-time.

“Both Jimmie and I were beneficiaries of their (Toyota’s) hard work on

There are nine drivers entered for four open spots and Truex and Johnson claimed two of them in time trials. Johnson is a seven-time NASCAR champion, two-time Daytona 500 winner and member of the Hall of Fame. Truex is the 2017 Cup champion and in his first year of not racing NASCAR full-time.

their engines,” Truex said.

Both would have been eligible to request the “world-class driver” provisional that guarantees entry as a 41st car to one driver who does not compete full-time in NASCAR and brings marketability and visibility to the biggest race of the season.

The provisional will go to four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves if he fails to race his way in Thursday night.

If he takes the provisional, Trackhouse Racing will not receive any points or purse money, and the field will be 41 cars — the largest field since 43 cars was the standard in 2015.

Johnson said his Legacy Motor Club was unaware of the provisional until it was announced earlier this year — even though it was a new rule included in the charter agreement teams signed in September. The rule required a team to request the provisional 90 days before the event, and the rule was not publicly announced until after the deadline for the Daytona 500 had passed.

“We didn’t know about it until the rule came out. Evidently, it was buried in the charter agreement that came out,” Johnson said earlier Wednesday.

“But when the rule came out, I forget the time of the morning, three minutes later, we were on the phone with NASCAR and recognized it wasn’t within the 90 day-window and we weren’t eligible.

“We’ve had a lot of talks with everyone at NASCAR and I have a better understanding of the intent of the rule, and I would anticipate some changes following (Daytona) to better define and clarify that. When first read, our reaction wasn’t great, but it is what it is and hopefully, we have a fast-enough car to get in.”

He did, just off the speed of Truex, but it was enough to ensure the two former champions will race Sunday.

The drivers who must race their way in Thursday, seeking the two remaining spots, are Anthony Alfredo, Justin Allgaier, Corey LaJoie, B.J. McLeod, Chandler Smith and J.J. Yeley.

If Castroneves races his way in, there will only be one open spot available.

coaches. Each participant will receive a team T-shirt and baseball cap.

Registration is \$25, and families can register online at madison-in.gov/summersports. Families with children outside the recommended age range are encouraged to contact Whitney Burdzilaskas at wburdzilaskas@madison-in.gov to discuss enrollment options. Those interested in coaching are also encouraged to reach out to Burdzilaskas.

		Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	FRIDAY EVENING										
				6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE		6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	Happy's	Happy's	Dateline NBC (N)				WAV..
4 WTTV		4		CBS4..	CBS-N..	BigBa..	Sheldon	NCIS (N)		Fire (N)		S.W.A.T. (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT		2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Happy's	Happy's	Dateline NBC (N)				News
8 WISH		12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	Penn (N)		Masters of (N)		News (N)		News
9 WCPO		23		News	World..	News	Extra	Shark Tank		20/20 (N)				News
11 WHAS		11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	Shark Tank		20/20 (N)				News
15 WKPC		13		Ameri..	Edition	PBS News (N)		Comm..	Week	Statue of Lib...		The Congress		
19 WXIX		10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	Basketball UCLA at Indiana (N)			FOX19			FOX19
32 WLKY		5	5	News	CBS-N..	Wheel	Jeopar..	NCIS (N)		Fire (N)		S.W.A.T. (N)		News
34 WBKI		7	7	Neighb..	Conners	Sheldon	BigBa..	Penn (N)		Masters of (N)		BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB		8	9	News	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	Basketball UCLA at Indiana (N)			WDRB News at 10			
A&E		28	36	(5:30) 2 Fast 2 Furious (P)				2 Fast 2 Furious ('01) (P)				Fast & Furio...		
AMC		29	26	(5:00) 2 Fast 2 Furious (P)				My Cousin Vinny ('92) Joe Pesci.				50 First Dates		
COM		45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	(20) The Office		Office	Office	Office	Office	Jeff
DISC		31	38	Gold Rush		Gold Rush		Gold Rush (N)		(10) Harpoon	(10) Outback (N)		Gold	
DISN		25	29	(15) 3 Frozen ('13)				Place	Shuffle	Jessie	Ladyb..	Ladyb..	Place	Place
ESPN		32	44	SportCtr (N)		Celebrity Game (N)		(N) (Live)		Boxing				
FREE		18	40	Beauty and the Beast				Aladdin ('19) Mena Massoud, Will Smith.						700Club
FX		40	28	(5:30) Captain America: First Av...				The Avengers ('12) Robert Downey Jr..						Movie
HBO		201	17	(05) Bridget Jones: Edge of Reason				(55) Bridget Jones's Baby				Real Time (N)		RealTi..
MAX		270	73	Beauty and the Beast				Good Luck Chuck		(40) Invention of Lying		Movie		
NEWSNTN		20	20	The Hill (N)		Elizabeth (N)		Cuomo (N)		On Balance (N)		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT		35	41	(05) Yellowstone		(10) Yellowstone		(15) Yellowstone		(20) Yellowstone		(25) Yellowstone		
PARSHO		221	16	Yellowjackets		Yellowjackets		Yellowjackets		Dexter: Sin		Shooter ('07)		
TMC		233	74	(05) American Insurrection				The Wrath of Becky		Breathe ('24)		Movie		
TNT		27	43	(5:15) Men in Black 3			Unrivaled Basketball			2025 NBA Rising Stars (N) (Live)				NBA o..
USA		26	33	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		WWE Friday Night SmackDown (N) (Live)						Bel-Air

		Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	SATURDAY EVENING										
				6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
3	WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	Chefs	Song	The Voice				SNL (N)		WAV..
4	WTTV	4		(3:00)	PGA Golf	Sheldon	Honori..	Watson "Pilot"		48 Hours		48 Hours (N)		CBS4..
5	WLWT	2		News (N)		NBCN..	Let'sT..	The Voice				SNL (N)		News
8	WISH	12		(5:00) NASCAR		United Rentals 300		Wild Cards		Wild Cards		News (N)		News
9	WCPO	23		News	World..	WiseM..	CashE..	4 Nations Team USA vs. Team Canada (N) (Live)				News		
11	WHAS	11	4	World..	News	Ent. Tonight (N)		4 Nations Team USA vs. Team Canada (N) (Live)				News		
15	WKPC	13		Antiques		TimFa..	RedGr..	Kentuc..	Kentuc..	WarGames ('83)			Willie	
19	WXIX	10		Wheel	Jeopar..	Game	Tip-Off	College Basketball				FOX19 (N)		LIVGo..
32	WLKY	5	5	(3:00)	PGA Golf	Wheel	Jeopar..	Watson "Pilot"		48 Hours		48 Hours (N)		News
34	WBKI	7	7	(5:00) NASCAR		United Rentals 300		Wild Cards		Wild Cards		House..	House..	News
41	WDRB	8	9	The Rookie		ModF..	Tip-Off	College Basketball				News (N)		LIVGo..
A&E		28	36	(5:00) The Fate of the Furious				2 Fast 2 Furious ('03) Paul Walker.				Fast Five		
AMC		29	26	(5:30) My Cousin Vinny				The Day After Tomorrow ('04)				I Am Numbe...		
COM		45	59	(4:45) Grown ...				Grown Ups 2 ('13)				The Hangover Part II ('11)		
DISC		31	38	Expedition X		Expedition X		Expedition X		Expedition X		Expedition X		Expedi..
DISN		25	29	Marvel..	Marvel..	Princess & the Frog		Place	Place	Place	Ladyb..	Ladyb..	Ladyb..	Big City
ESPN		32	44	College Basketball				Basketball Kentucky at Texas (N)				College Basketball		
FREE		18	40	Movie	(:45) My Cousin Vinny	Monsters, Inc. ('01)				(:50) Monsters University ('13)	Movie			
FX		40	28	(4:00) Avengers		Captain America: Civil War ('16) Chris Evans.						Black Panthe...		
HBO		201	17	(5:20) W..	Flow ('24) (P)			Waitress: The Musical ('23) (P)					Real, Bill Maher	
MAX		270	73	Movie	Bill & Ted's Excellent ...			Menashe		(:25) Hercules ('14) The Rock.	Movie			
NEWSNTN		20	20	NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation		NewsN..
PARMT		35	41	(5:35) Y..	(:35) Yellowstone	(:40) Yellowstone	(:40) Yellowstone	(:40) Yellowstone	(:40) Yellowstone	(:40) Yellowstone	(:45) Yellowstone			
PARSHO		221	16	(5:50) Jack Reacher ('12)				Gladiator Russell Crowe.				Drive Angry		
TMC		233	74	The Soloist ('09) Jamie Foxx.				Treasure ('24) Lena Dunham.		Ezra ('23)				
TNT		27	43	Basketball (N)		All-Star Sat. (N)		All-Star Sat. (N) (Live)				Collision (N)		
USA		26	33	(4:30) Hall Pass		Pixels ('15) Adam Sandler. (P)			(15) Hall Pass ('11) Owen Wilson.					

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	SUNDAY EVENING											
			6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	SNL50-Red (N)		SNL "SNL50: The Anniversary Special" (N) (Live)							WAV..
4 WTTV	4		(3:00) P..	CBS-N..	60 Minutes (N)		Tracker (N)		Watson (N)		Equalizer (N)		CBS4..	
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	SNL50-Red (N)		SNL "SNL50: The Anniversary Special" (N) (Live)							News
8 WISH	12		News	Inside..	Whose	Talladega Nights: Ballad of Ricky Bobby		News	Sports		News		News	
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	Videos		Shifting	Shifting	Shifting	Shifting	Shifting	Shifting	News	
11 WHAS	11	4	World..	News	Videos		The Wonderful World of Disney						News	
15 WKPC	13		Last../	KeepUp	Secret-Museum		Miss Scarlet (N)		Creatures (N)		Funny Wo (N)		Velvet	
19 WXIX	10		(2:30) D..	PaidPr..	Next Level Chef		Family..	Grims..	-North	Krapo..	FOX19 (N)		FOX19	
32 WLKY	5	5	(3:00) P..	WLK..	60 Minutes (N)		Tracker (N)		Watson (N)		Equalizer (N)		News	
34 WBKI	7	7	BigBa..	BigBa..	Whose	Talladega Nights: Ballad of Ricky Bobby		The Grand		9-1-1				
41 WDRB	8	9	(2:30) D..	Griffith	Next Level Chef		Family..	Grims..	-North	Krapo..	News (N) (Live)		News	
A&E	28	36	(5:00) 2 Fast & Furious 6 ('13)				WWE LFG (N) (P)			WWE Rivals		WWE	WWE..	
AMC	29	26	(5:30) 2 Fast & Furious 6 ('13)				WWE LFG (N) (P)			WWE Rivals		WWE	WWE..	
COM	45	59	2 Fast & Furious 6 ('13)					WWE LFG (N) (P)			WWE Rivals		WWE	WWE..
DISC	31	38	Homestead "Georgia Strong" (N)					Homestead Rescue (N)			Homestead		Homes..	
DISN	25	29	Big City Greens			Toy Story 3 ('10)			Marvel..		Marvel..		Bluey	
ESPN	32	44	College Softball			College Softball			SportCtr (N)		SportC..			
FREE	18	40	Movie (c:40) 2 Fast & Furious 6 ('13)			WWE LFG (N) (P)			WWE Rivals			WWE	WWE..	
FX	40	28	(c:40) 2 Fast & Furious 6 ('13)			WWE LFG (N) (P)			WWE Rivals			WWE	WWE..	
HBO	201	17	(c:40) 2 Fast & Furious 6 ('13)			WWE LFG (N) (P)			WWE Rivals			WWE	WWE..	
MAX	270	73	(c:40) 2 Fast & Furious 6 ('13)			WWE LFG (N) (P)			WWE Rivals			WWE	WWE..	
NEWSNTN	20	20	NewsNation (N)			NewsNation (N)			NewsNation (N)			NewsNation		NewsN..
PARMT	35	41	(c:05) Yellowst. "Grass on ..			(c:45) Yellowst. "One Hun..			(c:05) Yellowstone			(c:25) Yellowstone		
PARSHO	221	16	Yellowjackets			(c:55) Yellow			Yellow (N)			Dexter: Sin (N)		Yellow
TMC	233	74	Movie 2 Fast & Furious 6 ('13)			WWE LFG (N) (P)			WWE Rivals			WWE		WWE..
TNT	27	43	All-Star Pregame (N) (Live)			2025 NBA All-Star Game (N) (Live)						NBA		
USA	26	33	Law-SVU			Law-SVU			Law-SVU			Law-SVU		Law-S..

Clark gives approval to Fever’s offseason moves

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Caitlin Clark stayed relatively quiet as the Indiana Fever embarked on a major offseason overhaul.

Stephanie White took over as coach. Amber Cox became general manager. The construction of a new practice facility was announced. And then the franchise brought in WNBA champs DeWanna Bonner and Natasha Howard.

The team welcomed Bonner on Monday, and Clark was there to give a ringing endorsement of the offseason moves.

“They know what it takes to win, they know what it takes to get to the Finals, they know what it takes to win championships,” Clark said, referring to the newcomers. “I think it’s exactly what we needed in our locker room. But also they’re not just really good basketball players, they’re great leaders and great people and I know the front office prioritized that.”

Make no mistake, Clark still runs this team on the court.

In a historic season that featured the league’s Rook-

ie of the Year breaking the WNBA’s single season mark for assists, playing routinely in front of sellout crowds and drawing record television ratings, the former Iowa star played a pivotal role in helping the Fever snap a seven-year post-season drought while also bringing the franchise back to national prominence.

And with All-Star shooting guard Kelsey Mitchell and All-Star forward Aliyah Boston, the 2023 Rookie of the Year, both back next season, Clark thinks the Fever could take another gigantic leap forward in 2025 and believes the newcomers see it, too.

“This is the franchise of all women’s sports, I say, no matter what sport it is,” she said. “They see the type of crowds we get, the excitement we’re generating not only in Indiana but all across the country. I think the next few years are going to be amazing for this franchise and will continue to be for, hopefully, the next 10 years. Hopefully, we win a few championships.”

The fact is Indiana has largely filled one glaring omission from last year — postseason experience.

Last week, the Fever reintroduced Howard, a two-time All-Star and three-time league champ, to the franchise that initially drafted the forward No. 5 overall in 2014.

Bonner, the six-time All-Star and two-time league champ who needs seven points to surpass Tina Thompson for No. 3 on the WNBA’s career scoring list, worked out with Clark prior to her introductory news conference.

Clark then attended the event and though she wasn’t scheduled to speak, did anyway.

“I think it will be a lot of fun to get in the gym and be with my teammates and just start putting the pieces together and see what works or what doesn’t,” Clark said. “But I think we’re going to have a lot of different options to do a lot of different things. I think that’s what’s super exciting.”

Bonner, meanwhile, will wear No. 25 instead of her traditional No. 24 because that number has been retired by the Fever in honor of Hall of Famer Tamika Catchings. Now Bonner can focus on teaming up with Clark and Boston on the court while helping mentor them into championship players in the locker room.

Clark and Bonner did cross paths in one notable exchange last year when they were involved in a brief scuffle during the second and final game of a playoff series.

“I think it was just two competitive players who wanted to win and push their teams to get to the finish line,” Bonner said. “It’s the playoffs so emotions are high, tensions are high, but I’m excited to step on the court with Caitlin. I think we just feed well off of each other.”

That’s certainly the plan as Indiana continues to fine-tune its roster.

Team officials also announced last week that they had signed free agent guard Sydney Colson, a two-time league champ, and acquired guard Sophie Cunningham from Phoenix in a four-team deal that cost Indiana starting forward NaLyssa Smith.

Indiana also waived former draft picks Grace Berger and Victoria Saxton, and team officials announced they and forward Katie Lou Samuelson mutually agreed to part ways.

White, Cox and president of basketball and business operations Kelly Krauskopf haven’t said yet whether they’re finished making moves before the WNBA

draft in April.

Even if they don’t, Clark and Bonner each believe this version of the Fever can contend for a title — and that’s why the free agents joined the Fever.

“A dynamic point guard can put you in position to score easily and I think playing with Kelsey and A.B. (Boston), it’s just going to be easy to score,” Bonner said, before talking about the crowd at the news conference. “I walked in, I was like, ‘Oh my God, I don’t know if I’ve ever been in front of this many media people.’ Hopefully, I can put out the product everyone deserves here.”

Toppin’s 31/10 night leads Pacers past Wizards 134-130 in OT

BY BEN NUCKOLS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Obi Toppin had season highs of 31 points and 10 rebounds, and the Indiana Pacers rallied from a 19-point deficit to beat the NBA-worst Washington Wizards 134-130 in overtime on Wednesday night.

Bennedict Mathurin scored 28 points and Tyrese Haliburton added 20 for the Pacers, who enter the All-Star break at 30-23 and in fourth place in the Eastern Conference.

Jordan Poole scored 42 points for the Wizards and missed a step-back 3-point attempt at the regulation buzzer.

Corey Kispert added 21 points for Washington, which has lost 11 straight at home and four in a row overall.

After three mostly listless quarters, the Pacers picked up the intensity in the final period, and the Wizards’ momentum stalled after reserve guard Malcolm Brogdon suffered a left leg injury.

Indiana outscored Washington 36-23 in the fourth quarter, including 11 points from Mathurin. Toppin’s 3

with 1:26 left in overtime put the Pacers ahead by nine, and they held on from there.

TAKEAWAYS

Pacers: Improved to 4-3 this month after going 10-2 in January. C Myles Turner missed a third straight game with a cervical strain.

Wizards: Rookie Alex Sarr, the No. 2 overall draft pick, returned from a left ankle sprain that sidelined him for eight games. He scored nine points on 3-of-13 shooting.

KEY MOMENT

Haliburton hit a step-back 3-pointer over Sarr with 2:13 left to put the Pacers ahead 118-115, their first lead since midway through the first quarter. Poole responded with a tying 3 for Washington with 59 seconds left.

KEY STAT

Led by Toppin and Mathurin, Indiana’s bench outscored its starters 66-54 in regulation. Toppin kept the Pacers in the game with 17 points in the third quarter.

UP NEXT

After the All-Star break, the Pacers host Memphis on Feb. 20.

Bills’ Allen named AP NFL Most Valuable Player

BY ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

NEW ORLEANS — Josh Allen wanted to leave New Orleans with different hardware. Still, he’s happy to be recognized for his accomplishments.

Allen edged two-time winner Lamar Jackson for the AP NFL Most Valuable Player award in the closest race since Matt Ryan beat out Tom Brady in 2016.

“I wish we weren’t hoisting this trophy.

“I wish we were hoisting the Lombardi — and we’re going to keep working until we do,” Allen said Thursday, referring to winning a Super Bowl.

Allen, who led Buffalo to a fifth straight AFC East title, got 27 first-place votes to Jackson’s 22 and finished with 378 points. He received 21 second-place votes and one third.

The Bills fell short of playing on Sunday, losing to the

Kansas City Chiefs in the AFC title game.

Jackson, who led the Ravens to a second straight AFC North championship, got 26 second-place votes and one fourth for a total of 352 points.

Eagles running back Saquon Barkley finished third (117 points) followed by Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow (82) and Lions QB Jared Goff (47).

Allen threw for 3,731 yards, 28 TDs and had six picks for a 101.4 passer rating. He ran for 531 yards and 12 scores, becoming the first player in NFL history to have five consecutive seasons with at least 40 total touchdowns.

“I feel like my teammates wanted this more for me than I did, but I’m very honored,” said Allen, who was joined at the awards by fiancée Hailee Steinfeld.

SEE **PLAYER/PAGE B8**

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Switzerland County, Indiana that the proper legal officers will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.

FUND INFORMATION
Fund Name: General
Additional Amount Requested: \$46,045.00
FUND NAME: Reassessment
Additional Amount Requested: \$1,011.00
Gayler Sullivan, Auditor

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
SS: COUNTY OF JEFFERSON CAUSE NO. 39C01-2501-PL-000059

FORD FAMILY FARMS LP,
Plaintiff,
VS
ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS,
claiming any right, title, estate, lien or
interest in the real property described in
the complaint adverse to Plaintiff’s ownership,
or any cloud upon Plaintiff’s title thereto,
Defendants.

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO: ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS,
claiming any right, title, estate, lien or
interest in the real property described in
the complaint adverse to Plaintiff’s ownership,
or any cloud upon Plaintiff’s title thereto
Whereabouts Unknown
THE STATE OF INDIANA to the above persons named as Defendants and any other person who may be concerned.
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that you have been sued in the court above named by the person named as Plaintiff. The nature of the suit is a complaint to quiet title. The complaint was filed on January 23, 2025. The nature of the suit is a complaint to quiet title to the following described real estate located in Jefferson County, Indiana:
SITUATED IN SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST, SALUDA TOWNSHIP, JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA AND BEING UNKNOWN PROPERTY BY OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY RECORDER’S RECORDS, THIS DESCRIPTION IS BASED ON AN ORIGINAL SURVEY PREPARED BY HREZO ENGINEERING, UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF JAMES J. BERTRAM JR. LS #22200012 DATED JANUARY 10, 2025, HAVING A JOB NUMBER OF 24-301 WITH THE BASIS OF BEARING FOR THIS DESCRIPTION IS THE INDIANA STATE PLANE, US SURVEY FOOT, GEIOD 18, NAD83 AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT A FOUND 1/2” REBAR MARKING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST;
THENCE RUNNING WITH LITTLE EGYPT ROAD, N00°43’00”W, 223.45 TO A SET MAG NAIL;
THENCE LEAVING SAID ROAD, N89°19’24”E, PASSING THRU A SET 5/8” REBAR WITH CAP AT 40.00 FEET, TOTAL DISTANCE OF 373.04 FEET TO A 5/8” REBAR WITH CAP;
THENCE N00°00’00”E, 77.00 FEET TO A 5/8” REBAR WITH CAP;
THENCE N89°19’27”E, 2226.80 FEET TO A FOUND STONE AT A 30” GUM TREE;
THENCE WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF CARLOS D MAY, CHARLOTTE MAY AND CARLOS D MAY, JR, DEED RECORD 181 PAGE 327, N89°17’59”E, 1145.06 FEET TO A SET 5/8” REBAR WITH CAP;
THENCE S00°35’32”E, 264.00 FEET TO A SET 5/8” REBAR WITH CAP;
THENCE N89°17’59”E, PASSING THRU A SET 5/8” REBAR WITH CAP AT 125.00 FEET, TOTAL DISTANCE OF 165.00 FEET TO A SET MAG NAIL IN PAYNESVILLE ROAD;
THENCE WITH ROAD, S00°35’12”E, 43.15 FEET TO A SET MAG NAIL;
THENCE LEAVING PAYNESVILLE ROAD, S 89°24’51”W, PASSING THRU A SET 5/8” REBAR WITH CAP AT 40.00 FEET, TOTAL DISTANCE OF 3910.20 FEET TO THE BEGINNING;
CONTAINING 25.596 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, COVENANTS, AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY OF RECORD.
ALL CALLED SET IRON PIN AND CAPS ARE 5/8” REBAR WITH RED CAP STAMPED “J. BERTRAM IN LS#22200012, 30” IN LENGTH.
The whereabouts of All Unknown Persons, claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the complaint adverse to Plaintiff’s ownership, or any cloud upon Plaintiff’s title thereto, are unknown.
You must respond to the suit within thirty (30) days after the last notice of this action is published and, if you fail to do so, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
The name and address of the attorney for the Plaintiff is Darrell M. Auxier, Jenner, Pattison & Sharpe, 508 East Main Street, Madison, Indiana, 47250, Telephone: (812) 265-5132.
Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 23rd day of January, 2025.
/s/ Tabatha Eblen
Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Indiana (seal)

LEGAL NOTICE

KENT WATER
COMPANY, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the company office located at 6162 W. SR 256 on the 27TH of February 2025. The candidates for election to the Board of Directors are: *Warren Auxier, Gerry Bowers, & Vincent Morris* Member-at-Large – *Chris Colson*
All members are invited to attend.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA
IN THE JEFFERSON
CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO.
39C01-2501-EU-000005
IN THE MATTER OF THE
UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION OF THE
ESTATE OF
JOHNNY LEGRAND, SR.,
DECEASED.
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that on January 31, 2025, Martha LeGrand was appointed personal representative of the estate of Johnny LeGrand, Sr., deceased, who died on October 10, 2024.
All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent’s death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Madison, Indiana, this January 31, 2025.
Tabatha Eblen
Clerk, Jefferson Circuit Court

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice

The City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility has issued a draft Industrial permit to SuperATV, a manufacturer of aftermarket parts and accessories for ATVs and UTVs, regulated under Federal Categorical Guidelines for New Source Metal Finishing, 40 CFR 433.17(a) and the City of Madison Industrial Pretreatment Ordinance, located at 2753 Michigan Road, Madison, Indiana. This permit will be effective fifteen days from the date of this public notice and this public notice initiates the public comment period. A copy of the draft permit is available for review at the City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility located at 1213 West 1st Street Madison, Indiana. Comments on the SuperATV draft Permit must be received by March 1, 2025.

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MILTON KY 1 ACRE OPEN LEVEL LAND MODULAR HOME OK \$26,900
LEXINGTON 4 ACRES ROB-BINS RD OPEN/WOODS SMALL CREEK \$69,900
HENRYVILLE EXIT 1 1/2 ACRES OPEN/LEVEL SEPTIC APPROVED \$31,900
SCOTT CO. 3 3/4 ACRES ALL WOODS ON HARDY MILL ROAD \$34,900
PEKIN 4 1/2 ACRES OPEN/WOODS LAYS GOOD SEPTIC APPROVED \$46,900
LEXINGTON 4 3/4 ACRES ALL WOODS BACKS UP TO CREEK HWY 356 \$43,900

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice

The City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility has issued a draft Industrial permit to Arvin Sango, Inc. under 40 CFR 403.3 (v) and the City of Madison Industrial Pretreatment Ordinance, located at 2905 Wilson Avenue, Madison, Indiana. This permit will become effective fifteen (15) days from the date of this public notice and this public notice initiates the public comment period. A copy of the draft permit is available for review at the City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility located at 1213 West 1st Street Madison, Indiana. Comments on the Arvin Sango, Inc. Draft Permit must be received by March 1, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice

The City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility has issued a draft Industrial permit to ProCoat Products, LLC, a provider of acoustic ceiling and high-impact interior surfaces products, regulated under Federal Categorical Guidelines for Existing Source Electroplating under 40 CFR 413.14(b), Federal Categorical Guidelines for New Source Metal Finishing under 40 CFR 433.17(a), and the City of Madison Industrial Pretreatment Ordinance, located at 2514 Lanier Drive, Madison, Indiana. This permit will be effective fifteen days from the date of this public notice and this public notice initiates the public comment period. A copy of the draft permit is available for review at the City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility located at 1213 West 1st Street Madison, Indiana. Comments on the ProCoat Products draft Permit must be received by March 1, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice

The City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility has issued a draft Industrial permit to Vehicle Service Group, a manufacturer of vehicle lifts, regulated under Federal Categorical Guidelines for New Source Metal Finishing, 40 CFR 433.17(a) and the City of Madison Industrial Pretreatment Ordinance, located at 2700 Lanier Drive, Madison, Indiana. This permit will become effective fifteen days from the date of this public notice and this public notice initiates the public comment period. A copy of the draft permit is available for review at the City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility located at 1213 West 1st Street Madison, Indiana. Comments on the Vehicle Service Group draft Permit must be received by March 1, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE

Ohio Valley Opportunities’
Weatherization Assistance
Program is accepting Bidders to provide home insulation and air sealing, HVAC repair or installation, and/or light residential rehabilitation in Jefferson, Jennings, Scott, Jackson, Bartholomew, and Decatur Counties. Through funding provided by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCA). Approximately 60 homes per year are weatherized by OVO contractors. Bid packets will be available February 17th through 21st. General contractors and HVAC contractors should contact Jeff Rowlett, Weatherization Program Director at (812) 265-5858 Ext. 307 to schedule a bidder’s orientation and receive a bid packet. Sealed bids must be returned by February 26th, 2025. Local contractors and Minority and/or Women Owned Businesses are strongly encouraged to bid.

UNLV senior offensive lineman Christman dies

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — UNLV senior offensive lineman Ben Christman, who transferred after last season from Kentucky, has died, the university announced. Christman, who was

21, was found dead in an off-campus apartment on Tuesday. The university said it didn't have other details and a cause of death would later be determined by the coroner's office. UNLV said Christman's

family and the team have been informed and counseling services would be provided. "Our team's heart is broken to hear of Ben's passing," UNLV coach Dan Mullen said in a statement.

"Since the day Ben set foot on our campus a month ago, he made the Rebels a better program. Ben was an easy choice for our leadership committee as he had earned the immediate respect, admiration and friendship of all

his teammates. Our prayers go out to his family and all who knew him. Ben made the world a better place and he will be missed." "There is little that can be said to lessen the pain of

suddenly losing a member of our university family at such a young age, and my heart breaks for all who knew and loved him," UNLV President Keith Whitfield said in a statement.



LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE RIPLEY CIRCUIT COURT
STATE OF INDIANA
CAUSE NO. 69C01-2410-AD-000005

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF A.W.,
a minor,
ALVA & DAWN GEISLER,
Petitioners.

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO KIM GULLION IN RE THE ADOPTION OF A.W., ALVA & DAWN GEISLER, PETITIONERS

Kim Gullion is notified that a petition for adoption of a child, named A.W., born to McKenzie Gullion and Gary Webster on June 10, 2020, was filed in the Ripley County Circuit Court, 115 N. Main Street, Versailles, Indiana on October 30, 2024.

Kim Gullion has been identified as a grandparent of the child to be adopted pursuant to I.C. § 31-19-4.5-1(3). Pursuant to I.C. § 31-7-5 you have a right to petition the Court for grandparent visitation that, if granted, may not be terminated if the adoption is granted.

Kim Gullion is receiving this notice on the limited issue of grandparent visitation and may not contest the adoption pending in the above-named court. If Kim Gullion seeks visitation with the child, A.W., she must file a petition seeking visitation prior to the adoption being granted. If Kim Gullion does not file a petition for grandparent visitation within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the above-named Court will hear and determine the petition for adoption.

No oral statement made to Kim Gullion relieves Kim Gullion of Kim Gullion's obligations under this notice. This notice complies with I.C. 31-19-4.5-3 but does not exhaustively set forth a person's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes and grandparent visitation statutes.

Petitioner's Attorney
Ann E. Schwartz, #23770-29
ALCORN, SAGE, SCHWARTZ, & MAGRATH, LLP
One West Sixth Street
Madison, Indiana 47250
Telephone: (812) 273-5230
Fax: (812) 273-6844

/s/ Liz Baumgartner
Clerk, Ripley Circuit Court (seal)



LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE RIPLEY CIRCUIT COURT
STATE OF INDIANA
CAUSE NO. 69C01-2410-AD-000005

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF A.W.,
a minor,
ALVA & DAWN GEISLER,
Petitioners.

PUBLISHED NOTICE IN RE THE ADOPTION OF A.W., ALVA & DAWN GEISLER, PETITIONERS

Notice is hereby given to Gary Webster, whose last known whereabouts were Madison, State of Indiana, that on October 30, 2024, Alva & Dawn Geisler filed their Petition for Adoption of in the Ripley Circuit Court of Ripley County, Indiana, Cause No. 69C01-2410-AD-000005. A hearing on said matter is scheduled for April 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ripley Circuit Court located in Versailles, Indiana.

Should Gary Webster, seek to contest this matter, he must file a motion to contest the adoption in accordance with I.C. 31-19-10-1 in the above-named court not later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice.

If Gary Webster, does not file a motion to contest the adoption within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the above-named court will hear and determine the petition for adoption. Gary Webster's consent to adoption of A.W. will be irrevocably implied and Gary Webster, will lose the right to contest either the adoption or the validity of Gary Webster's implied consent to the adoption.

No oral statement made to Gary Webster, relieves Gary Webster, of Gary Webster's obligations under this notice.

This notice complies with I.C. 31-19-4.5-3 but does not exhaustively set forth a person's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes.

Petitioner's Attorney
Ann E. Schwartz, #23770-29
ALCORN, SAGE, SCHWARTZ, & MAGRATH, LLP
One West Sixth Street
Madison, Indiana 47250
Telephone: (812) 273-5230
Fax: (812) 273-6844

/s/ Liz Baumgartner
Clerk, Ripley Circuit Court (seal)



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE SUPERIOR/CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO. 39C01-2501-MI-74
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Julia Ann Adams

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Julia Ann Adams, whose mailing address is: 823 West 3rd Street, Madison, IN 47250, in the Jefferson County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Julia Ann Adams has filed a petition in the Court requesting that her name be changed to Juia Ann Gengerich.

Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on April 1, 2025 at 9:00 AM.
Julia Ann Adams, Petitioner
Date 1/30/25

MADISON COURIER CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Publication Date	Deadline
Tuesday	Thursday 4 PM
Friday	Tuesday 4 PM

Contact Customer Service at
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***Holidays advance deadlines by 24 hours.**

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PLAYER

FROM PAGE B6

Jackson had career-highs with 4,172 yards passing, 41 TDs to just four interceptions and a 119.6 passer rating, which led the NFL. He got 30 first-place votes to Allen's 18 to earn AP first-team All-Pro honors. The last time a first-team All-Pro didn't win the NFL MVP award was 1987. John Elway was the MVP that season and Joe Montana was first-team All-Pro. The MVP award is given to a player who had the most valuable season while All-Pro is a statistical recognition.

AP COACH OF THE YEAR

Kevin O'Connell beat out Dan Campbell for AP NFL Coach of the Year after leading the Minnesota Vikings to 14 wins with

quarterback Sam Darnold. The Vikings, widely picked to finish last in the NFC North, ended up playing for a division title and the conference's No. 1 seed in the final game of the regular season. They lost to the Lions and then were knocked out of the playoffs by the Rams. "I put a lot of thought into this season. I thought it had a chance to be a special team," said O'Connell, who was presented by Bill Belichick, the coach who drafted him in the third round in 2008. "It really wasn't about that. It was more my belief in our organization and my belief in our coaches and our players to come together and just try to win one football game. "It's a great example of unique people and unique things being able to come together and find a way to try to have unique results." O'Connell got 24 first-

place votes, 18 seconds and seven thirds, appearing on all 49 ballots. Campbell, who guided Detroit to a franchise-record 15 wins, got 19 first-place votes to finish second. Kansas City's Andy Reid (4), Denver's Sean Payton (1) and Washington's Dan Quinn (1) also received first-place votes. **AP DEFENSIVE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR** Los Angeles Rams edge rusher Jared Verse was an overwhelming choice for AP NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year. "Hard work can take you anywhere," Verse said. "You don't have to be the biggest, the strongest, the fastest. As long as you work hard, you can overcome anything. So, it's just a testament to that." Verse had 4 1/2 sacks and led all rookies in quarterback hits (18), pressures (77) and hurries (56). He

also had 11 tackles for loss. Verse got 36 first-place votes, well ahead of Eagles rookie cornerback Quinyon Mitchell, who received nine. Rams defensive tackle Braden Fiske, Chargers cornerback Tarheeb Still, Texans safety Calen Bullock and Commanders cornerback Mike Sainristil each got one apiece. **AP COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR** Joe Burrow took the AP NFL Comeback Player of the Year award after returning from wrist surgery in 2023 to lead the NFL with 4,918 yards passing and 43 touchdown passes. Burrow played all 17 games for the Bengals (9-8) after missing seven due to injuries the previous season. He received 31 first-place votes and finished far ahead of Chargers running back J.K. Dobbins (3).

THORNTON

FROM PAGE B1

"And then next year, I cleared 5-2, 5-4, and then I kept trying and trying and trying. But I've had some ankle injuries and other things, but I've been fighting through it." Madison coach Scott Holcroft said that it is Thornton's work ethic that has him reaching his goals. Holcroft admits that he wasn't sure that Thornton had much of a future when he first saw him in action. "He is so deserving. For Michael, where there's a will, there's a way" Holcroft said. "When he came out as a sophomore, I was like, 'What are we going to do with this guy?' I mean, he was so awkward. But he worked hard, did a lot of drills, form drills and from there, started developing. His work ethic has been unbelievable. He's usually one of the last ones to leave every evening, especially when the high jump coaches are there. And then I've heard rumors he has been coming over, sneaking in and jumping before we got the pits put up. This is just well deserving." While Thornton has never hit 6-foot-4 in competition, his accomplishments at the Indiana Tech camp last summer gives him reason to believe that he could be in for a great senior season. The state cut last year was at 6-4 and Thornton

wants nothing more than to join the list of Madison athletes who have competed in the state finals. "I missed out last year (at state) because of a stupid little roll on my ankle, but I channeled that, and I was like, that's not gonna happen again. I kept practicing over the summer and now I really think I can make something out of this, maybe a career, or maybe beyond college," Thornton said. "But my goal right now is state and maybe the high school track record, which is 6-7. That's what my eyes have been on since I hit 6-4 at Indiana Tech. As soon as I hit those three more inches, that's my goal." Holcroft agrees. "He's going to be our leader this year. We expect him to lead us in that field and take care of business for us," Holcroft said. "I don't see state being out of the picture for him." Thornton plans on majoring in sports management with a goal toward possibly being an athletic director someday. "I just want to thank God for everything he's done for me in my life. I've been praying and manifesting in him and opening doors to this," Thornton said. "And also my coaches and my parents as they've been in the corner for me. Sometimes I've wanted to quit, but you can't quit. You've got to keep pushing, keep pushing forward. And good things come from that."

DEAL

FROM PAGE B1

Despite a secondary sponsorship of Goodman Real Estate — who paid to run the team's second boat that season and was the team's primary sponsor this past season — the debt was simply too much to overcome. Shortly after the 2024 season, Grooms knew that something had to be done. The deal with Ratchford was somewhat of a fluke. Ratchford's Apollo

Mechanical had sponsored the U-27 Wiggins Racing Team in 2024 but he was looking to upgrade. He contacted Grooms about the possibility of purchasing one of the team's boat. Grooms countered with the whole inventory for \$2 million. "I was joking, but in a way I wasn't," Grooms said. "I wasn't expecting him to take me seriously. But he did and things went into motion." While Grooms wasn't exactly happy to sell the team's equipment, he also knew something needed to be done to ease the Miss

Madison's ballooning debt. But as he was negotiating with Ratchford, the potential sale leaked on social media and the resulting firestorm grew out of control. The leak allowed people to make wild accusations and misconstrue the process. Eventually, the City of Madison and the Madison Regatta got involved and this week, Madison Mayor Bob Courtney fired Grooms and four other board members citing the city's "fiduciary responsibility." He installed himself, the Madison Regatta's

Kyle Bipes and Tim Bipes as well as two others on the board. The future of Miss Madison Racing now appears to be in doubt. Kyle Bipes said on WORX Radio recently that it is unlikely there will be a Miss Madison boat race this year at Madison, the first time since 1960 the team has not competed. It's a stunning turn of events for the second-winningest team in the sport's history and its longest running. And Grooms says it all started with that one ill-fated deal.

GROOMS

FROM PAGE B1

"When the costs began to rise in the 70s and 80s, we had to turn to corporate sponsorship. And

every sponsorship agreement we signed said nothing about it being the 'Miss Madison,' " Grooms said. "We kept the seal on there and we said that it was 'owned by the citizens of Madison' but there has not been any money

or taxes paid by the city. We are a 501©(4) and our official designation is 'to promote water safety for the city.' But all money was paid by sponsors." As of Wednesday, the future of the Miss Madison Racing Team is in doubt.

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